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# Daily Report

# Latin America

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## Latin America

FBIS-LAT-94-031 15 February 1994

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## Colombian GATT, EU 'Diplomatic Setback' Viewed

*PA1502010794 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1727 GMT 13 Feb 94*

[Text] Brussels/Geneva, 13 Feb (DPA)—Colombia suffered a major diplomatic setback and was isolated in the "banana war" when it unilaterally announced the withdrawal of its demands to the GATT, and the EU disregarded its urgent request to maintain the quota distribution offer made in December 1993.

New and significant details were disclosed the weekend of 11 February regarding the desperate diplomatic efforts made on 10 and 11 February by Colombian Ambassadors Carlos Alberto Marulanda in Brussels, and Guillermo Alberto Gonzalez in Geneva following Costa Rica's withdrawal from the group made up also of Nicaragua and Venezuela.

In a last and desperate attempt to convince the Europeans to maintain the quotas, Colombia sent a letter to GATT disclosing its decision to withdraw its demands against the questioned European regulations for banana imports so long as the EU offer was still standing. The letter was accompanied by a new offer made by the Colombian Government to the EU, which proposed a 23.4-percent increase in the relative percentage of the total quota for Costa Rica while for Colombia the quota was set at 21 percent, for Nicaragua, 3 percent, and for Venezuela, 2 percent.

The EU ignored the Colombian request, from this sterile fight among the Latin American countries and decided definitively to withdraw the 14-December offer once the decision by the GATT committee of experts was revealed on 11 February in Geneva. This decision declared the EU regulations for banana imports discriminatory and in violation of international trade rules.

Rene Steichen, the European commissioner for agricultural affairs, said that the formula that proposed an increase of the quota to 2.2 million in 1995 and a distribution of quotas and licenses among the Latin American exporting countries had been discarded because two of the exporting countries, namely Costa Rica and Guatemala, had not accepted it.

In this manner, Colombia's position, which it had secretly negotiated with the EU, fell apart and at the same time compromised Nicaragua's and Venezuela's position, two countries that had supported Colombia's stance.

A diplomatic source close to the other countries (Colombia, Nicaragua, and Venezuela) indicated that Costa Rica's attitude caused "considerable unease" within the group. The weakening in this group's position reinforced the stance held by Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, and Mexico who are challenging the European import system and have presented a counterproposal consistent with GATT regulations and currently under evaluation by the EU.

Diplomatic sources have pointed out that Ambassador Marulanda's performance, the obvious proponent of the secret negotiations held last year during a three month period with the EU in Brussels, is fully backed by President Cesar Gaviria and his Foreign Trade Minister Juan Manuel Santos. It has been learned that Marulanda is expected to return to Colombia in the next few days in response to his government's summon.

Since last Wednesday, the Governments of Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, and Mexico increased their high-level contacts with Costa Rica following President Gaviria's and Trade Minister Santos' unsuccessful bid to persuade Ecuadoran Vice President Alberto Dahik, currently visiting Santa Fe de Bogota, to adhere to Colombia"s thesis.

Following the inevitable failure of the quota offer made by the EU (which was brought about by Colombia's initiative), the Latin American countries are now once again trying to close deep wounds and restore lost unity. The announcement related to the fall of the quota offer was made to the Latin American foreign and trade ministers on Thursday in Brussels by Commissioner Steichen himself when they delivered the counterproposal.

Costa Rica was the first country to realize in time the need to reaccommodate its diplomatic position in light of the strength of the other countries' initiative which is supported within the GATT by Brazil and now also by the United States.

GATT General Director Peter Sutherland and EU Commissioner Leon Brittan were advised of the U.S. position by Trade Representative Mickey Kantor. Sutherland is attempting to reschedule the 25 March deadline for an earlier date in order to present proposals to improve the Uruguay Round offers (which will finally be signed on 15 April in Marrakesh, Morroco). The negotiating period with the EU expires on 28 March, before experts committee decision on the banana issue is passed to the GATT contracting parties council.

There is the likelihood that negotiations between Latin American countries and the EU will take place sometime before 27 March. With the EU withdrawing the quota offer made on 14 December, the original offer No. 404 made in March 1993 on the import system in effect since 1 July of last year remains standing.

A better offer could rise from new negotiations between Latin America and the EU which is in an uncomfortable position as well as under pressure that the technical committee decision, which establishes a poor precedent as regards international law, will be made public during the meeting between the 117 GATT member countries.

There are several formulas circulating around Brussels as well as Geneva diplomatic and technical circles, including one by the German Government, another by the U.S. Senate, in addition to a counterproposal by a group coordinated now by Guatemala. This proposal includes an assistance fund for those banana producing countries who are signatories of the Lome Treaty (Africa, Caribbean, and the Pacific).

## U.S. Military Presence in Region Assessed

*PA1402173694 Lima Solar Radio Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 12 Feb 94*

["Special Program" featuring a discussion via satellite on the presence of U.S. military forces in Latin America by Bolivian Senator Andres Solis Rada in La Paz, former Venezuelan Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich in Caracas, retired Ecuadoran Division General Richelieu Levoyer in Quito, Peruvian General Sinecio Jarama in Lima, and Colombian General Gabriel Puyana in Santa Fe de Bogota, with moderator Eduardo Lozano at the Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional studios in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] [Lozano] Lately, agreements and pacts that governments have signed with the United States have basically allowed U.S. military forces, including military engineers and some technicians, to visit countries in the region to teach or to work on construction projects. Colombia is no exception, and currently the presence of U.S. military forces in this country has generated a strong dispute between the State Council and President Cesar Gaviria. What do Latin American countries think of the U.S. military presence in our nations? Let us recall that not long ago in Paraguay and Uruguay, senators reacted against the presence of U.S. technicians in their countries. Let us immediately begin to learn the viewpoint of each nation. Let us begin with La Paz, Bolivia. Welcome Juan Jose Hidalgo.

[Hidalgo] Thanks, Eduardo. Good morning, Latin America. The presence of U.S. troops in Latin America has raised concern and has prompted various responses. In Bolivia, they use the word technicians, even the word doctors, to avoid direct reference to the U.S. military regarding the presence of U.S. military units. To deal with this issue, we have invited Senator Andres Solis Rada, who is among those who have strongly criticized the U.S. military presence in Bolivia. Senator Solis will give us his opinion regarding the current situation in Bolivia. Senator, 130 million Latin Americans are listening to you. Good morning.

[Solis] Good morning, and a Bolivarian greeting to my Latin American brothers. We believe that the systematic presence of the U.S. Armed Forces in our countries is the result of the existence of a new U.S. strategic doctrine regarding Latin American countries. That doctrine is called the new world order, and it was outlined by former U.S. President Ronald Reagan [as heard] immediately after the U.S. invasion of Panama on 20 December 1989.

According to the new world order, concepts such as sovereignty, nation, armed forces, dignity, patriotism, or borders are obsolete terms. This doctrine comprises both a pretext and a practical reality. The pretext is the fight against drug trafficking. We believe that if the United States truly wants to eliminate drug trafficking, it can achieve this goal very in a short time—I would say two or three weeks. How? It can simply control the laundering of $3 or $4 billion by international banks. Instead of controlling the banks, however, the United States has opted to send military forces with the illusory goal of catching mosquitoes with boxing gloves. The biggest drug traffickers are not in the jungles, but in New York's skyscrapers or in the modern buildings of Latin American capitals. Therefore, this is all a great pretext.

We believe their primary objective is the occupation of the Amazonian region. According to the developed countries, the Amazonian region is one of the world's lungs, but from the Eurocentric viewpoint, humanity only includes Europeans and white North Americans. According to this outlook, the Amazonian region does not belong to Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Venezuela, Ecuador, or Colombia, but to them. They are seeking to rule the world with ideas that date back to 200 years ago—the ideas of Adam Smith or Thomas Robert Malthus.

To illustrate my point, I will recall that in May 1992, 400 U.S. engineers, who were specialists in troop landings, arrived in Bolivia. The odd part was that to justify their presence, it was argued that they were coming to repair schools and dig latrines. These schools and latrines cost $20,000, while providing transportation for these 400 U.S. engineers rang in at $8 million. Therefore, they are clearly not coming to build latrines or schools; they are getting ready to occupy the Amazonian area, especially the Brazilian part, where there is the greatest opposition to this policy.

Their second goal is to get people used to the presence of foreign troops. Before I conclude, I cannot overlook the occupation of our countries by police forces. We have denounced the fact that Bolivia's major cities—La Paz, Cochabamba, and Santa Cruz—are patrolled 24 hours a day by agents under the command of Bolivian officials and who also work for the U.S. Government. Their vehicles have license plates that belong to international cooperation or intelligence services. In the end, if we remain passive regarding this situation, we will soon become colonies with a parliament and a flag, but the parliament and the flag will merely be a facade to cover this intervetion. Nevertheless, a slave who realizes his slavery begins to be free. Let us realize this situation of dependence to be loyal to Simon Bolivar's legacy and resist the very tense situation we are currently living. This is our viewpoint from La Paz, Bolivia.

[Hidalgo] Thank you Senator Andres Solis Rada. You have heard the senator's position, which strongly questions the U.S. military presence in Bolivian territory. Back to you, Eduardo Lozano.

[Lozano] Juan Jose, I really appreciate your report from La Paz, Bolivia. What are the thoughts in Venezuela? What are the Venezuelan people's ideas on whether or not they agree with the U.S. military presence? Caracas, welcome Elsy Verrueta:

[Verrueta] Many thanks, Eduardo Lozano, and good morning to all our Latin American listeners. The topic has been a matter of controversy in our country in the past. The possibility that U.S. military forces could come

to Venezuela arose emerged and it became the task of Division General Fernando Ochoa Antich to take charge of the problem. First, he was defense minister and then foreign minister until 2 February. He is our guest and he is going to give us his opinion and how he handled the situation. Of course, we also want to hear his opinion about the possibility that U.S. troops could remain in some Latin American country. Go ahead Gen. Fernando Ochoa Antich, we want to hear your opinion.

[Ochoa] Many thanks. First, I want to take advantage of this extraordinary opportunity to send my cordial greetings to the Latin American people listening to us. When I was defense minister, I had the great responsibility of negotiating, with the United States, agreements for the antinarcotic radars. Venezuela was very firm in the position we presented to the U.S. negotiators, and we managed to convince them this was not possible in Venezuela because of a basic feeling or principle among Venezuelans of not accepting foreign troops under any circumstance, even though they were unarmed.

Venezuelans would not accept, under any circumstance, that the radars be handled by U.S. troops. If this point was not amendable, then these radars could simply not be located in Venezuela, with all the consequences this would have had for the struggle against drug trafficking. We managed to convince the United States; they understood the Venezuelan position and fortunately an agreement was reached whereby the radars are operated entirely by the Venezuelan Armed Forces.

This is a very strong feeling, both among Venezuelans as well as Latin Americans. I really cannot understand how Latin American Governments can accept foreign troops in their country—mainly U.S. troops—behind the back of the people, even though these troops need not be involved in any military activity. This is a problem of nationalism, which is deeply entrenched among Latin Americans because of our sad history of colonialism. That is why we and the people have always rejected this. This, despite the fact that current relations with the United States are much more constructive than relations based on Marine invasions. None of our people can accept the presence of foreign troops in our country due to our concept of liberty, which is so very much a part of our feeling.

Another very basic point, which was discussed very intelligently by the Bolivian senator, is the interest in the drug-trafficking problem. The U.S. interest toward our countries right now, aside from the permanent interest in raw materials, is simply to do with drug trafficking. There are two very complex problems. One, their interest that our Armed Forces direct the work to fight drug trafficking. I have maintained a doctrinal position on this. The Latin American countries' Armed Forces cannot be used against drug trafficking because the corruption capacity of drug trafficking would force the Armed Forces to lose their main capacity as institutions intended to defend our countries and sovereignty. Therefore, this is a position that Venezuela has also maintained very firmly by rejecting the idea that our Armed Forces be used to fight drug trafficking.

We accept that the National Guard, which is part of the Armed Forces but tasked mainly as an administrative police, can be used for this. In no way, however, will we accept the involvement of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force in fighting drug trafficking because this would change the main purpose of our Armed Forces. The third point, which I believe is very important and which I will stress, is that the struggle against drug trafficking cannot be successful until consumption in developed countries is controlled, as it should be. This is a fight which these countries must face because while the drug trafficking business remains so productive, this struggle is simply a loss of time, even though we are fighting. In this respect, I admire the people of Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia, who are waging an all-out war against drug trafficking, with a lot of sacrifice.

The fact of the matter is that until consumption is not checked and until money laundering is not controlled, we simply cannot be successful in our struggle against drug trafficking.

[Verrueta] Thank you Gen. Fernando Ochoa Antich for your valuable opinion. We return once more to Eduardo Lozano.

[Lozano] Thank you Gen. Ochoa for your participation in this special program. Now we are with Jorge Ivan Melo, in Quito.

[Melo] Thank you, Eduardo. Greetings to our 130 million listeners throughout Latin America.

In 1987 in Ecuador, the Ecuadoran and U.S. Armies signed an understanding memorandum to allow military maneuvers and works in support of the civilian population. This resulted in the construction of a road that according to budget figures should have been 57 km long. Only 2,200 meters were built.

We invited retired General Richelieu Levoyer to discuss this. He has been government minister, general commander of the Army, and a deputy. Currently, he is the president of Omidelac, Organization of Military Men for Democracy and the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean.

General, what has been the result of the U.S. military presence in Ecuador?

[Levoyer] Thank you. First I want to cordially greet the Latin American community, which is very concerned about this very important issue. I can say the Ecuadoran people have always been opposed to the presence of U.S. troops in our territory. These troops sometimes come to build roads but the fact is we have excellent military and civilian engineers who can do this work.

We also find it strange that U.S. troops have to come here to build one, two, or three small schools in the countryside. This is something our civil engineers, who can rely on the cooperation of the teachers, can do perfectly well. Why then must troops, and not civil engineers and technicians, come here to build roads or schools?

In any event, the clearest evidence of the Ecuadoran people's position on the presence of U.S. troops in our country took place in 1987. I was a congressional deputy at the time. In March of 1987, there was a tremor that destroyed an interior road in our country's Amazon region, the Baeza-La Guagrio road, leaving approximately 100,000 people isolated.

The U.S. Army and our government reached an agreement called Opening Routes. Based on this agreement, the U.S. Army would open an alternate 57 km long road going through the towns of Ollin, Loreto, and Coca. A total of 6,000 soldiers, arriving in groups of 600, came to the country to do the work in six months. The performance of this task force, the U.S. 1169 Task Force, was, to say the least, lacking. As a member of the congressional commission charged with overseeing the work of the U.S. troops, I personally confirmed that they built only 2,200 km [measurement as heard] of road.

[Melo] General, the Bolivian senator and some Ecuadoran analysts have said the U.S. military wants to learn about Latin America's geography to put pressure on the jungle areas and to familiarize the people with U.S. troops so a future invasion is not seen as odd. How true could this be?

[Levoyer] I agree with what Bolivian Senator Andres Solis Rada said. The 1987 event confirms his statement. That year I personally spoke with Lieutenant Colonel Powell, the commander of the U.S. group that came to build the alternate road in the Amazon region, and he emphatically and carelessly told me the U.S. objective had been accomplished: the training of U.S. soldiers in a jungle area like ours. He told me the U.S. troops had become accustomed to performing in this type of environment.

Regarding the objectives of cooperation with and the transferal of technology to our military engineers, these objectives failed because equipment was lost, the soldiers did not know the river flow variances, their equipment sank in humid regions, and they could not work well.

[Melo] We thank retired General Levoyer for his participation in this Solar program. Now we go back to Santa Fe de Bogota.

[Lozano] Thank you. We will now contact Dennis Vargas, in Lima. What do Peruvians think about the involvement of U.S. military forces in aid programs? Go ahead Dennis.

[Vargas] Latin America's tradition has been that of defending the principles of nonintervention and sovereignty. This should be clearly established in international law. American or North American doctrine on international law better outlines these principles. In the specific case of drug trafficking, we would have to analyze the situation. Legislative Branches are always concerned about respect for the legal framework of fighting drug trafficking in the various countries, especially in Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia. Some concepts put international law in danger when there is meddling.

Our guest today is General Sinecio Jarama. We are asking him, as part of the Solar network, about the U.S. military presence in Peru or how much of a presence there was before and what can he tell us about the topic. What is the role of U.S. soldiers or military engineers in our countries? Over 100 million Latin Americans are listening to you.

[Jarama] I would first like to thank you for this invitation. I also wish to send greetings to those 100 million Latin Americans listening to the Solar System. Getting into the topic of whether U.S. troops should be in our countries, it is worth noting first that this has been and remains a permanent concern for all Latin Americans, both civilians and military personnel. Second, it is also worth noting that in Peru there has been adamant opposition to the authorization of the presence of foreign troops in our territory. Whenever this has happened, or whenever there have been complaints about it, the people or various political or social sectors have reacted by demanding an explanation, and the appropriate authorities have explained the matter. Third, I also want to point out that the presence of foreign troops is addressed in the constitutions of all our countries. This is not a decision or whim on the part of the Pentagon or the U.S. Administration. Our constitutions give specific details of the measures to be followed, the steps to be taken, or the institutions to be consulted when a foreign country wants to bring its troops into our territories. This is also a problem that involves the exercise of our sovereignty. The president and his military advisers normally handle such matters. In addition, the respective legislatures must be asked for their authorization; that is, the countries' respective legislatures. That is where the exercise of our sovereignty comes in. I must also say, however, that over the past four decades, from the 1950's until now, the United States, through its military offices or military attache offices, has maintained relations with our military forces. These relations have allowed the development of cooperation programs, which are basically military training programs that have entailed joint actions by combined U.S.-Peruvian forces. There are also programs like Operation Unitas. There are other programs that are part of the training of U.S. reserve troops, which is the case with the troops in Panama. They come with engineer battalions, conduct training exercises, and leave behind some benefit for the community.

[Vargas] Thank you, Gen. Jarama, for being with us on the Solar network. We are returning to Santa Fe de Bogota. Eduardo.

[Lozano] Thanks, Denis, you are very kind. General Gabriel Puyana, our guest today, is a very well-known military man in Colombia, and although he has retired already, he is a true Colombian. We only have a minute, General. We would like to hear your opinion as a military member and a Colombian regarding the presence of foreign troops—in this case, U.S. soldiers—in Colombia.

[Puyana] Thanks to Radio Cadena Nacional and the Solar Network. Since I only have a minute, I will be clear and concise. I was able to hear part of what the other guests have said on this program, and basically I agree with them.

A distinction must be made, especially with the current controversy in Colombia, between troops being in a country on a temporary or permanent basis. The Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty signed in 1947 has been mentioned here. We must recall that Colombia participated in Korea. However, we must differentiate between technical advisers, who teach and help facilitate learning about new and sophisticated equipment, and regular troops, because the latter causes wariness and rejection.

But there are different viewpoints about this issue. People in those isolated areas, who have been systematically and long forgotten by various governments, are satisfied because their urgent needs are somewhat relieved. But let's not confuse the issue. We cannot think that a military attache in another country implies a foreign military presence in that territory. The Peruvian General has discussed this already. These are two different situations.

In addition, our histories give us certain obligations. If there are two countries that must assume dignified attitudes, setting aside the pragmatism of convenience, they are Mexico and Colombia. We must only recall Theodore Roosevelt and how Panama was taken away from Colombia. We were definitely better off, because it is as if one's arm is cut off [words indistinct], it is better to cut off the arm as it happened to Colombia. We were better off that another country, Panama, had to bear all that it has had to tolerate and will tolerate in this unending century. That is why I believe the presence of armed forces—to be specific, logistics and operational units— should not be accepted.

There is some background to this issue. For example, there was an operation here called America 1962. We must clarify that there is a difference between technicians who teach and help and troops who are here on a permanent basis.

Regarding the recent controversy, the problem arose basically due to a mishandling of information. It was very sad for Colombia—and I say this as a Colombian—that we had to learn about the entire episode through a statement by the ambassador as if this were a unilateral decision by the Pentagon. It was disgraceful. There has been a lack of information and misinformation. I want to reiterate that this is my personal opinion: I am not quoting anyone. As a Colombian, I do not approve of U.S. soldiers being here and doing things that we can do ourselves.

[Lozano] Many thanks, Gen. Puyana, you have been very kind.

## Costa Rican Niehaus Says Central American Should Head OAS

*PA1402214294 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1300 GMT 12 Feb 94*

[Report by Klaus Blume]

[Text] San Jose, 12 Feb (DPA)—Costa Rican Foreign Affairs Minister Bernd Niehaus, who, so far, is the main candidate to aspire to the OAS Secretary General seat due to be decided on 27 March, has said that after 40 years it is only fair that a Central American hold the post.

In an interview granted to DPA, Niehaus pointed out: "We strongly believe in the principle of juridical equality of the states," and he recalled that in the four decades since the OAS birth, the secretary generals have always been South Americans.

The Costa Rican politician, who is of German descent, added that "Costa Rica holds a special place for the OAS because, thanks to this organizztion, we have lived 40 years without an Army." He emphasized that it is uncommon for a country, regardless of how small it is, to live without an Army. It was precisely the OAS which guaranteed the protection of Costa Rica's sovereign interests.

He described his chances of winning the election at the next OAS Assembly in Washington, D.C. as "excellent." He added: "We have 23 sure votes and only 18 are required." In addition to the six Central American nations and 13 Caribbean countries, he has the support of Chile, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, and Argentina.

Niehaus doubts those who say the United States opposes his candidacy and pointed out: "I sincerely do not believe that the United States opposes my candidacy." He believes that what the United States could oppose is a break in the tradition of larger countries occupying such a high position. He said that this would be unfair because all states are equal. According to Niehaus, the secretary general does not have to be a former president, as in the case of Colombian President Cesar Gaviria, who the White House supposedly favors.

The 52-year-old statesman, who has been an international law professor for 20 years and foreign minister twice, noted: "I think that have a knowledge of international law is more important." He believes that some countries are afraid that the small nations of the continent would unite to create a so-called "mechanical majority" against larger nations. He added that "this is stupid because we are not that foolish."

Niehaus feels that the most important thing for an organization like the OAS to do is "to reach its basic goal: to defend democracy." This means that all countries must give democracy the special treatment it deserves. He cited Cuba as an example. He believes a change toward democracy and respect for human rights will soon come to that country. "That change must be promoted so that it will be peaceful and nonviolent," he said. Niehaus advocates rapprochement with Cuba to promote development. In this specific case, which is very different from Haiti, he feels the blockade is inappropriate. "Isolation does not lead to positive results," the outgoing foreign minister concluded.

## Cuba

### U.S. 'Fully Responsible' for Incidents at Interests Section

*FL1402161794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Unattributed "Our Opinion" commentary]

[Text] Encouraged by the United States, many Cubans want to emigrate to that northern country. Why has the United States sponsored an incident involving the Interests Section in Havana? What has hurt the United States? Could it be that after 35 years of frustration it can no longer resist a Cuba that keeps resisting, and which in its [word indistinct] has adopted initiatives to facilitate the reunion of Cuban families? Or is it perhaps trying to create incidents with rumors like these, to prevent the meetings called for by Cuba? Or was it perhaps trying with this incident hastily to create charges to justify its groundless accusations against our country at the UN Human Rights Commission, which is meeting in Geneva? Or was it perhaps trying to tarnish the rally it knew was scheduled to be held in New York on 12 February in support of Cuba and the proposal that Charles Rangel will submit to the U.S. Congress demanding the lifting of the blockade? Or perhaps, because of its arrogance, the United States can no longer resist the many blows such as those scored by the success of Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina's tour of Africa; the great Israeli rabbi's recent remarks about Fidel Castro; Ricardo Alarcon's tour of several European nations; the agreements signed with businessmen from developed nations who have publicly stressed the feasibility of Cuban projects; and of Carlos Lage's successful visit to three Latin American countries?

Imperialism, the Miami counterrevolution, and the warmongers disguised as dissidents are fully and exclusively responsible for the incident.

Cuba does not implement any coercive policy; neither does it have any military base in any country whatsoever, nor does it finance radio or television stations against any government, nor does it lend its territory to shelter terrorist organizations with all material and radio means to promote incidents like this one.

The strength of the Cuban policy is based on its universally recognized justice, its clear openness, and its loyalty to the principles it proclaims.

The embassies in Cuba will always have the necessary protection and facilities to carry out their activities and provide security to their staffs, who also have the moral obligation not to promote incidents which have nothing to do with their diplomatic roles.

Trying to hold the Cuban press responsible for this incident because of the recent publication of a number of works on the emigration issue is a maneuver by certain U.S. sectors which can have no other objective than trying to disguise the true origin of the problem. It is childish to try to hold those who condemn and denounce such an action responsible for it.

Once again it is confirmed that the streets of this country belong to and will belong to revolutionaries. Under no pretext will anyone jeopardize the fatherland's independence.

The economy is experiencing a special period, but the dignity and decency of a people who are displaying heroism will never be at stake.

Today we must be more alert than ever. What imperialism could not achieve at Playa Giron or during the past 35 years, it is now trying to achieve, as in the 1960's, by spreading lies and rumors that could create incidents propitious for its goals.

It is not the Cuban Government that must give explanations to the people who might go to the U.S. Interests Section, but rather the U.S. officials. Surely they have publicly explained their rules for the issuance of visas, which will help dispel the false rumors and unfounded illusions created.

Our action and our duty, clearly outlined during the incident, are strictly based on the obligations of a nation and have been fulfilled impartially and efficiently. Cuba will continue granting all guarantees to those who are authorized by the United States to travel or to emigrate to that country.

Nothing happened within the U.S. Interests Section. There is not a single Cuban citizen inside the building. No one was either injured or wounded. With the dispelling of the rumor, everything returned to normal.

However, this type of incident or irresponsibility can provoke more serious consequences, all the responsibility for which will fall upon the promoters. This incident will serve as a lesson to the unscrupulous perpetrators of this ordeal. No one will ever step on the Revolution, because to step on the Revolution means to step on the courage and resolution of millions of Cubans who believe neither lies nor rumors when they must defend their country's integrity.

### Foreign Minister Says U.S. Breaks Immigration Agreement

*PA1502021494 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2321 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] Havana, 14 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina said today the government of President Fidel Castro will not make concessions to negotiate with the United States, and he accused the United States of not complying with the 1984 immigration agreements.

"Cuba is willing to talk with the United States but is not begging and will dialogue with the United States only on an equal footing," Robaina stated this Monday when he

called Cuban emigrants who are living in the United States and other countries to a meeting to be held from 22 to 24 April.

The Havana conference, entitled "The Nation and Emigration," will attempt to regularize the ties between the Cuban community abroad and their relatives and local institutions. The organizations that are hostile to the Cuban Government have been excluded from this conference.

During a news conference, the foreign minister expressed regret that contacts to further immigration negotiations with Washington have not advanced much, and he said this situation "is not due to the Cuban position."

According to the Cuban foreign minister, the White House "systematically and repeatedly" breaks the immigration agreement signed 10 years ago, which mandates the United States will grant 20,000 visas a year to Cubans who want to travel to that country.

An official Cuban memorandum yesterday accused U.S. special services and Miami exiles of spreading rumors that visas were being granted in order to trigger a massive entry of people to the U.S. Embassy in that capital city.

Special operations police and Defense of the Revolution Committee members cordoned off the diplomatic mission, and more than 80 people were arrested in several incidents, official sources have revealed.

Robaina clarified that the differences between Washington and Havana and the relations with the community of Cuban exiles "are two separate issues" and that they cannot wait to solve the first issue to start broaching the second problem.

The head of the Cuban foreign office urged the Washington government to understand that the Cuban immigrants in the United States include a much wider spectrum than the conservative National Cuban American Foundation, headed by Jorge Mas Canosa.

## Foreign Minister Announces Exile Community Meeting

*FL1502032194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[Passages within quotations marks recorded]

[Text] Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina has described the conference entitled, "Cuba and the Exile Community," which will be held on 22-24 April in Havana, a test of extreme fortitude. Robaina made this statement during his announcement of the conference, which will bring together approximately 200 Cuban exiles from diverse countries. Robaina also stressed that given the difficult situation Cuba faces today, it is time to prevent emigration from being a negative factor in the hands of others.

"This invitation is an opportunity for Cubans abroad, acting in good faith, to express their logical concerns and hopes to Cuba. There is no possibility for political manipulation, nor space for meddling with hopes that are by nature the sole concern of those who live, work, and struggle in the fatherland. There is no room for doubt or speculation. This invitation does not include counterrevolutionary organizations, nor does it concern itself with the opinions of their kingpins."

Robaina added during the news conference, conducted to announce the conference:

"In the bosom of the exile community there are today sectors and organizations separate from the counterrevolution. These concur in criticizing the hostile policies toward Cuba, particularly, the blockade. They advocate respect for our national sovereignty and the normalization of relations, and support the Cuban people. In this manner, they contribute to creating an atmosphere conducive to advancement. The maturing of this process, despite the counterrevolution and those who manipulate immigration issues and try to create a schism between the exile community and Cuba, confirms that relations with Cubans abroad is an issue Cuba is undertaking in a sovereign manner and without conditions by foreign interests. The Cuban people and their authorities will not be manipulated by illegitimate, minority organizations and spokesmen [words indistinct] who with the worst of intentions try to represent the exile community and speak on its behalf when in reality they are tools of anti-Cuban policies moved by petty personal interests."

Ricardo Alarcon, Carlos Lage, and Abel Prieto, as well as Robaina, will participate in the conference, "Cuba and the Exile Community."

## 'Party Officials' Explain Situation to Visa Seekers

*FL1402030794 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Excerpts] The paper JUVENTUD REBELDE today published an article entitled, "What Happened at the U.S. Interests Section?" in which it sets forth in detail the incidents that occured in the vicinity of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana on 10 and 11 February. [passage omitted]

In the chronology and analysis of the incidents, JUVENTUD REBELDE points out that on 10 February, rumors began to spread through the city of Havana to the effect that the Cuban security guards had been withdrawn from the U.S. Interests Section, and that people going to the Section's offices were expeditiously being awarded visas. During that day, several groups of people appeared in the area, headed for the U.S. Interests Section. Party officials explained to them that what they heard was false, and they desisted.

Later, similar incidents occurred, and the custodians asked the people to leave because it was all nothing but a manipulation by unscrupulous people. The area was

cordoned off with police barricades. This cordon was later removed, given the characteristics of the people who, deceived, were showing up at the site.

In the chronology published today by JUVENTUD REBELDE, it was pointed out that on 11 February, however, the human element that began showing up at the site changed. Noted was the absence of confused people and the presence of lumpen. One man even had a knife hidden under his shirt and was arrested.

In the afternoon, a crowd of some 60 or 70 people formed, among whom a number of agitators were observed. These people headed along the Malecon intending to enter the U.S. Interests Section's offices. Revolutionaries gathered at the place thwarted the attempt. Those believed to be the ringleaders were arrested. The police cordon was immediately reestablished. There were another two similar disturbances later, but the provocateurs failed to achieve their goal. [passage omitted]

JUVENTUD REBELDE'S article adds: It is obvious who masterminded the incidents. This is how the mechanisms of the counterrevolution and imperialism operate—on the basis of deception and cynicism. It has once again been confirmed that the streets of this country belong, and will continue to belong, to the revolutionaries.

The item states: The economy is in a special period here, but the dignity and decorum of a people who evidence daily heroism will never be.

Let what has occured serve as experience for the unscrupulous authors of the escapade. Never will anyone be able to ride roughshod over the Revolution because to do so, he would have to ride roughshod over the righteous anger [coraje] and determination of us millions of Cubans who place no stock in rumors when it is a matter of defending the unity [integridad] of the fatherland.

## Commentator Accuses U.S. of 'Fomenting Violence'

*FL1402235994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Commentary by Reporter Orlando Contreras]

[Text] All human activities—and foreign policy decisions are human—are subject to error. This obvious premise leads us to a thorough analysis of the foreign policy we have implemented for more than three decades. We can say that Cuba has never been mistaken about the cardinal principles that rule its behavior in relation to other nations, states, or governments. Among these principles, as a basis of its policy, we can mention a respect for truth regardless of circumstance.

Over the past few days on 10 and 11 February specifically, certain incidents took place around the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, incidents of which our people are well aware, that seek to create artificial tension in an effort, through manipulation, to counterbalance the growing acceptance by international public opinion, governments, and institutions of the obvious truth that the blockade against our country is unjust, immoral, and not good for anyone's legal interests; that it is an obsolete expression of the Cold War, of arrogance, intransigence, and intolerance on this, the eve of a new century, and is a special challenge for all of mankind. This same behavior reflects the biased, unjust, and often extortionist attitude of imperialism toward human rights.

Cuba has extensively revealed all details as well as its interpretation of the incident without any sign of arrogance, but on the contrary, with the composure and firmness with which it acts in this and other more tense, more complex circumstances. Cuba reasserts that the incidents reported and publicly analyzed by JUVENTUD REBELDE in its Sunday issue are a faithful reflection of the truth.

It is not by fomenting violence, by violating the security of diplomatic or consular offices, or others of similar status, that differences or conflicts are solved, nor do we contribute to international peace and security. Cuba honors its commitments, and faithful to the principles followed by Marti, respects the truth.

The facts are well known. Those, once against caught redhanded, responsible for these actions should reconsider their serious misconduct. If they believe they are even partly right, they should have no fear of admitting their ideas within the framework of equality and mutual respect with which international relations treated. On the contrary, they should at least have the sense of decency to remain silent, because in this case as in others, silence implies consent.

## Easing Restrictions Viewed as Ploy to Infiltrate Society

*PA1202001294 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Feb 94*

[Report by Miguel Angel de la Guardia from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] The U.S. State Department is studying the possibility of reducing restrictions on trips to Cuba by U.S. citizens. No, it is not a question of easing, even slightly, pressure exerted on Cuba or of improving relations between Washington and Havana. It is only a measure that seeks to minimize the violation of U.S. citizens rights by prohibiting visits to other countries, in this case Cuba. As is well known, measures adopted by the U.S. Government to exert pressure and cause economic damage to the Cuban economy include the enforcement of severe sanctions on U.S. citizens who travel to Cuba in defiance of these restrictions. Obviously, the reported attenuation of those restrictions does not include those who want to travel to the Pearl of the Antilles as a tourist because that would represent income in dollars to the Cuban tourism industry.

Cuban specialists on international relations believe the elimination of certain travel restrictions to Cuba and the expedition of possible information exchanges are part of a system designed to influence the Cuban civilian society and increase its political influence on the island, as was done in Eastern Europe. Others believe that, far from contributing to the improvement of relations between the United States and Cuba, its real purpose is to weaken Cuba's conclusive arguments before international organizations, where it has stated the travel restrictions imposed on U.S. citizens who wish to travel to other countries for personal reasons are a violation of their human rights.

Cuba cannot be accused of extreme mistrust because it has only experienced all kinds of aggression from the United States for more than 30 years. Besides, Washington officials have made it clear they are not interested in making any policy changes towards Cuba as long as Cuba does not adopt changes to resemble the so-called representative democracies that follow the U.S. model throughout the world. Cuba has repeatedly stated it will not tolerate this blatant interference in its internal affairs, and it cannot accept conditions to establish and maintain diplomatic relations, or other types of relations, with another sovereign state.

If the United States eliminates or reduces restrictions on its citizens so they may travel to Cuba, even with the provision that they do not to contribute in any way to the Cuban economy, this would be another step towards reason and wisdom. Cuba has many friends in the United States and has always been happy to receive visitors from all nations, whether they sympathize with Cuba or not, if they want first-hand knowledge of the real Cuban situation. The Cuban Revolution has always been able to differentiate between government and people, as far as the United States is concerned, and Cubans have always felt respect and sympathy for the U.S. people.

### Havana Notes DPRK Rejection of U.S. 'Pressuring'

*FL1202160294 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1506 GMT 12 Feb 94*

[Text] The DPRK will consider a declaration of war any kind of sanction promoted by the United States against the DPRK in order to to solve the nuclear disagreement on the peninsula. The daily paper RODONG SHINMUN affirms that the U.S. Government is exacerbating the situation by pressuring Pyongyang to accept a total inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency, threatening to take the nuclear problem before the UN Security Council.

North Korea has repeatedly denied charges that it is developing nuclear weapons on its territory and rejected the inspection by the international agency arguing that its installations are devoted to peaceful ends.

The DPRK calls unjustified the position that has been taken by the White House and insists that a negotiated solution can be reached only through talks between Washington and Pyongyang, in order to reach a global agreement.

### Havana Cites Reports Faulting U.S. Human Rights Record

*FL1202163194 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1505 GMT 12 Feb 94*

[Text] The U.S. Government, which every year publishes a voluminous report detailing human rights violations in the rest of the world's countries, in several areas itself fails to come up to international norms as regards human rights. A recent report from the Human Rights Watch and the American Civil Liberties Union says the government fails to comply with international human rights norms in important ways, ranging from the way it treats Haitians to instances of interference with the freedom of religion—passing through racial and sexual discrimination, police brutality, and other such things along the way.

The two organizations carried out this study in the hopes of breaking down the cynical official posture that international law protects human rights only outside the borders of the United States.

Other areas of concern are the systematic, deep-rooted discrimination against women in matters of education, employment, and salaries; overcrowded prisons; and abuse of the death penalty.

### Newspaper 'Explains' U.S. Interests Section Events

*FL1402001894 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 13 Feb 94*

[Text] An article in today's JUVENTUD REBELDE newspaper explains the events that occured in the vicinity of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana over the past three days, after the counterrevolution launched rumors that the Cuban security guards had been withdrawn. The item claims that Miami counterrevolutionary organizations and special services of imperialism are wholly responsible for the incidents that occurred on 10 and 11 February.

They had tried to create a massive influx of Cuban citizens to the U.S. Interests Section as a way to denigrate the Revolution and create an incident that would further damage the nonexistent relations between the two countries. The paper points out that to do this, they used the rumor technique, spreading false reports that the Cuban Government was interested in encouraging an event of that nature.

JUVENTUD REBELDE says: The rumors began on the morning of 10 February when the counterrevolution began to spread the news that the sentries had been withdrawn, and that the U.S. Interests Section was expeditiously issuing visas to anyone applying for them at the U.S. Interests Section.

During all [several seconds lost due to tape change] from Centro Habana [Municipality] and from the Cojimar neighborhood expressed their intentions of going to the place, while others went to the U.S. Interests Section. Those people were joined by a number of residents from Arroyo Naranjo Municipality.

On 11 February, the internal forces of order cordoned off the streets that provided access to the U.S. Interests Section to prevent the crowds from getting near the Section offices. At around noon on Friday [11 February], according to JUVENTUD REBELDE, the presence of lumpen in the area was obvious, again showing that this is the natural medium from which the counterrevolution draws its sustenance.

During the course of the incidents at the U.S. Interests Section, 82 people were identified and detained for a few hours. At present, a number of citizens are still under arrest, and the instigators of the events are being identified.

In its Sunday item, JUVENTUD REBELDE reports that several participants in the incidents said they heard rumors from Miami radio stations that visas would be freely granted.

It is obvious who masterminded the incidents at the U.S. Interests Section. This is how the mechanisms of the counterrevolution and imperialism operate—on the basis of deception and cynicism. Responsibility for what has happened belongs wholly and exclusively to imperialism, to the counterrevolutionaries in Miami, and to the agitators disguised as dissidents. Cuba does not practice policies based on force. The force of Cuba's policy lies in its proverbial justice, crystal clarity, and fidelity to its proclaimed principles, according to today's article in JUVENTUD REBELDE, entitled, "What Happened at the U.S. Interests Section?"

The embassies in Cuba will always be able to count on the protection and facilities they need to carry out their tasks and ensure the the security of their members. Nothing happened inside the U.S. Interests Section. There are no Cuban citizens inside the offices. No one was hurt or injured. Once the rumor about free issuance of visas was denied, everything returned to normal.

Nevertheless, JUVENTUD REBELDE adds, these kinds of incidents and this type of irresponsibility have the potential to provoke more serious consequences. The onus falls entirely on whoever is responsible for promoting this kind of thing. Let this incident serve as an experience for the unscrupulous authors of this escapade.

## Commentary States Position on NATO 'Ultimatum'

*FL1002221694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Feb 94*

[Station commentary by journalist Jose Armas]

[Text] Following NATO's ultimatum yesterday that the Serbs of Bosnia-Herzegovina remove their artillery within 10 days from around the capital, Sarajevo, or the West would undertake air strikes against Serb positions, we do not think that is the path that will lead that martyred republic to a real and effective peace. To the best of this commentator's knowledge, ultimatums have never brought any lasting solutions to ethnic conflicts.

If NATO leaders and the United States have decided to take a major hand in the Bosnian conflict, they should, in a totally disinterested manner, at least place their emphasis on a just, negotiated solution, without favorites. We stress this point because there are some very dark areas in NATO's decision.

It has been explained that what brought about the organization's meeting in the first place was the explosion of a shell in the middle of Sarajevo that killed 68 people and injured another 200. Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic has denied Serbian responsibility in the matter, and has called the report [not further identified] a mise-en-scene. In his opinion, the event was manipulated. In that connection, he has asked U.S. President William Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin to use every means to uncover the truth. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher himself admitted that his country has no proof. No one has proven that the Serbs were responsible for the attack on the Sarajevo marketplace.

So, where does the truth lie? What dark interests might be at play behind the Bosnian conflict? Is there a sincere desire on the part of all parties for peace to prevail there? Many questions remain unanswered.

For the time being, amid the tensions, the agreement between Serbs and Muslims for an immediate ceasefire in Sarajevo, and the holding of peace talks today in Geneva between the warring factions, have been received with relief. We reiterate: It is there that the emphasis should be placed, not on bombs.

## Delegate to UN Seeks UNHRC Condemnation of Blockade

*FL1102000294 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2030 GMT 10 Feb 94*

[Text] Cuba today demanded that the UN Human Rights Commission condemn the U.S. blockade against the island for its violation of all international laws in this matter. The Cuban position was reaffirmed before the 50th UN Human Rights Session at the UN Palace where the economic, social, and cultural rights and those related to development are being debated.

According to Cuban representative to the United Nations, Jorge Lago Silva, the UN Human Rights Commission must make the U.S. Government understand that a dignified, heroic country cannot be subdued by force, nor can it be deprived of its subsistence and development. This was the second appeal made by the Cuban delegation to that commission during the two-day session on economic rights.

Speaking before the 50th session of the Human Rights Commission at the UN Palace, Jorge Lago Silva said that the U.S. blockade, as a coercive measure against a small country, seeks to prevent its access to essential goods, whether they are called food or medicine, in an effort to destroy the political, economic, and social system chosen by the Cubans.

Lagos Silva said before the plenary session that Washington ignores decisions made by the international community. It does not respect the UN resolutions, but on the contrary, tries to impose its own unilateral concessions.

Within the specific structure of international politics, Lago Silva stressed the lack of political willingness by countries of the North, namely the United States, to promote measures that seek to achieve increasing development levels in the Third World.

## Ambassador Says Cuba Willing To Reenter OAS

*PA1402223694 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1547 GMT 13 Feb 94*

[Text] Montevideo, 13 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Cuban Ambassador to Uruguay Abelardo Curbelo Padron has said Cuba would be willing to reenter the OAS—it was expelled in 1962—if this action will foster regional integration and reduce tension in the continent.

The diplomat, who was appointed to represent his country in Mexico, told LA REPUBLICA newspaper that "Cuba is willing to consider the issue if the OAS asks for the island's reentry. [no closing quotation marks as published]

"Cuba was arbitrarily removed from the OAS and now the decision for its reentry is the organization's problem, not ours," the ambassador stated. He added that the international political situation has changed so much "that many people believe the decision to exclude Cuba is going out of fashion."

Curbelo said integration "was an old historic aspiration of the continent," and that the regional and subregional advances in this direction were "interesting." He noted: "For us, the integration process and the international meetings have an effective and practical value because, regarding the Caribbean's participation, they foster rapprochement of all countries."

Cuba, he added, does not participate in any regional integration process but has made important steps in this direction through the Caribbean Common Market. Therefore, he said, the experience gathered at the Latin American Integration Association will be important in the future.

## Colombian Ambassador Stresses Growing Diplomatic Relations

*FL1402164394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Relay from Santiago de Cuba by Carlos Sanabria]

[Text] Recently appointed Colombian Ambassador to Cuba (Ricardo Santamaria Salamanca) was welcomed here by Santiago de Cuba Governor [title as heard] (Reinaldo E. Vicendis). Relations between Colombia and Cuba are favorable and are growing satisfactorily, the Colombian ambassador said.

[Begin recording] [(Santamaria Salamanca)] One of the first actions of the recently established Colombian Embassy in Cuba is to establish immediate friendly relations between Santiago de Cuba and Cartagena de Indias, in Colombia, to unite those who already are united, de facto, by history and culture. They are two peoples with parallel histories, both capitals of the Caribbean which, thanks to a good initiative of the two governments, will again strengthen their friendly relations.

Within this framework, we hope to develop cultural and commercial activities that promote new points of cooperation between Colombia and Cuba, through Santiago de Cuba and Cartagena de Indias. We are going to receive visiting Colombian officials and businessmen for two or three days here in Santiago de Cuba, and we hope to begin talks between those two sectors. I would say that Colombia and Cuba are experiencing good, friendly relations at this moment. Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina was visiting Colombia at the end of 1993; Vice President Carlos Lage also met with President Gaviria; and by the end of April, Colombian Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin will visit Cuba. We are going to have a number of visits. Our relations are at a good level at this moment. This complies with President Gaviria's policy of tightening relations with the Caribbean, of strengthening an international relationship of friendship; and I am here to begin implementing those guidelines.

[Sanabria] Would it be possible to receive a visit by President Cesar Gaviria, as well, during the development of these relations?

[(Santamaria Salamanca)] For the time being, we are working on visits by two or three ministers, a delegation of Colombian businessmen, and [Foreign Minister] Noemi Sanin; then will we be able to plan future objectives. So far, we are working with these goals, which surely implies relations at a high level, because for almost 12 years we had no diplomatic relations. [end recording]

## Carlos Lage Grants Interview Upon Return to Havana

*FL1202030294 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Feb 94*

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Carlos Lage Davila, vice president of the Council of State, returned early this morning to our country after a fruitful working tour of Brazil, Venezuela, and Colombia. In an exclusive interview by our reporter (Carea Bermudes), Lage stresses the importance of the trip.

[Lage] "We are very satisfied with the trip. I believe the meetings we held with the presidents of the three countries were excellent. We established an excellent channel of communication and I think the opportunities represented by these meetings are very important for us. We had the occasion to explain our situation, what we are doing, the measures we are adopting, and the importance of the struggle against the U.S. blockade under current conditions.

"We met not only with the presidents of those countries, but also with other officials, with ministers and businessmen. I think the environment is very positive for strengthening current political, economic, and commercial relations with the countries we visited. The fruit of this positive environment was the visits to those countries, and I believe these visits can contribute to improving relations.

[(Bermudes)] "In your opinion, what were the highlights of those visits?

[Lage] "I think the most outstanding points were the respect for the Cuban Revolution, the interest in our country's situation, the increasing awareness of the need to fight against the U.S. blockade, an understanding of the measures the country is adopting to adjust itself to current circumstances, and the possibility that the measures we are adopting can lead to greater economic integration with Latin America. I think one of the main results of the visits is the thrust we are giving to inviting investment in the Cuban economy and strengthening economic and commercial ties, as well as opening new possibilities for the export of Cuban products to those countries of the region."

Colombian Ambassador to Cuba (Ricardo Santamaria) also returned to Havana. He participated in Lage's visit to Colombia. Santamaria also conveyed his opinion to this station.

[(Santamaria)] "I would say that the visit was very positive because bilateral relations were strengthened, especially in the area of business. Vice President Lage met with Colombian businessmen, six ministers, and President Gaviria. We must also mention the visit of Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina and the reestablishment of relations. We hope that after this visit, we will be able to arrange a visit to Cuba between Colombian businessmen and various ministers for closer identification of points of cooperation.

[(Bermudes)] "And what about the invitation extended by Lage to President Gaviria to visit Cuba?

[(Santamaria)] Well, we have a program which includes a visit by the transport minister and by the foreign trade minister for the signing of a preliminary agreement, and finally the visit of Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin. These arrangements are in progress and we hope they will develop well. I am certain that the development of these relations will be fruitful both for Colombia and Cuba."

## Lage on Agreements With Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil

*PA1402021794 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Feb 94*

[Report by Marianella Samper from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] This weekend, Carlos Lage Davila, vice president of the Cuban Council of State, returned to Cuba after a fruitful work visit to Brazil, Venezuela, and Colombia. He said the meetings with the presidents were excellent, and there was great communication. This visit, he pointed out, provided great possibilities for explaining the island's current situation, the measures which are being adopted, and the importance of the struggle against the U.S. blockade in our conditions.

Lage added that he also met with other leaders, officials, and businessmen of those nations and he noticed there is a very positive atmosphere for strengthening the political, economic, and social relations. With regard to the most outstanding points of these meetings, the Cuban vice president said:

[Begin Lage recording] I think the most outstanding aspects were respect for the Cuban Revolution, interest in our country's situation, the growing awareness of the need to fight the U.S. blockade, an understanding of the measures the country is adopting to adapt to the circumstances we are living under, and the possibilities these measures will provide for an economic integration with Latin America.

I believe the results have stimulated the participation process with investments in the Cuban economy, strengthened economic and commercial relations, and opened (?possibilities) of exporting Cuban products to those countries in the region. [end recording]

## Alarcon Returns From, Comments on European Tour

*FL1202030794 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Feb 94*

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, President of the National Assembly of the People's Government, arrived at the Jose Marti Airport a few minutes ago and made the following remarks to this station.

[Begin recording] Well, the most significant, the most important point of the visit was the attitude that exists in Europe toward Cuba, an attitude of interest in Cuba, and a very respectful interest. Many people are following the

development of the Cuban situation, its problems, and the way we are facing them. There is interest and concern. I would also say that there is a great respect for, a great understanding of what we are doing. This has been conveyed from an official point of view.

We received very cordial treatment from government officials in Belgium, Germany, and France. This same attitude was conveyed by all political sectors of those countries we visited. I think this process will lead to the imminent signing of that framework agreement, that overall cooperation agreement between our country and the European Union, that is, the set of countries that comprise the European Economic Community.

As you know, we have relations with each of those members bilaterally. We also talked, and there is great mutual interest, especially with Germany, about working on a specific agreement for the promotion and protection of investments between our two countries, similar to the agreement signed with Italy. [end recording]

### Terms France Visit 'Positive'

*PA1202050194 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Feb 94*

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, has termed his meetings in France as very positive. France is the third country he visited as part of a tour of Europe, which, he said, has been very fruitful and has demonstrated the friendship and affection of the people of France for the Caribbean island. This has materialized in the sending of donations, he continued.

In statements to Radio Rebelde, Alarcon said his meeting in Paris with (Robert Hue), new secretary general of the French Communist Party, was very friendly. Alarcon said (Hue) reiterated his party's support for Cuba and vowed to maintain the solidarity movement toward the Caribbean nation.

Upon assessing his tour, which also included Germany and Belgium, the president of Cuba's legislative body added that there is a great and growing interest in Europe in learning about Cuba's reality. He stressed that the initial amazement over Cuba's survival without assistance from the now defunct Soviet Union and the socialist bloc is over.

Alarcon told Radio Rebelde that currently on the continent there is a great deal of interest in learning about the problems of the island, how they are being confronted, and the current development perspectives, because for many people in Europe this is a very unique case. He added that this is a country facing serious economic difficulties, which has continued to preserve firm human values of respecting people and maintaing a feeling of solidarity.

### Raul Castro Visits Holguin Province FAR Unit

*FL1102033394 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Feb 94*

[Text] As we reported in the beginning, Army General Raul Castro Ruz, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], has paid a visit to the province of Holguin.

Army Gen. Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], together Division Gen. Ulises Rosales del Toro, member of the Politburo, visited a large Antiaircraft Defense and Revolutionary Air Force [DAAFAR] unit of the Eastern Army. The minister [Raul Castro] and his first vice minister and chief of the General Staff [Ulises Rosales] were accompanied by Division Gen. Ramon Espinoza Martin, chief of the Eastern Army; Francisco Garcia Ferrer, first secretary of the PCC in Holguin; as well as other Central Committee members, generals, and high-level officers.

The unit chief, Colonel Carlos (Negrin) Rodriguez, briefed the minister about the results attained during the past year, and the prospects for this year, stressing the seven main tasks of the Western Army. He verified the progress achieved in the training of personnel, maintenance of armaments and of the theater of military operations, morale and discipline, and the fighting capacity of the troops.

The work carried out in livestock production can be clearly seen in the 30-percent higher growth than last year. An example of the creativity in this area is the production of milk: larger cattle farms in larger units; minicattle farms in smaller units; and goat milk production in the more distant, smallest units. The agricultural and livestock plan for 1994 seeks steps beyond those of the previous year, making the troops almost self-sufficient, to the point of providing a modest food provision to the families of the officers' corps.

Brigadier Gen. Ruben Martinez Puentes, DAAFAR chief, and Col. Negrin Rodriguez gave a tour of the combat operations center to the FAR minister and his retinue. Raul here greeted the soldiers and the many female personnel who work at the National Airspace Defense screens.

At the flight ramp, the FAR minister was shown various types of equipment for air safety built by the rationalizers [racionalizadores] and innovators who replace the numerous forms of equipment that used to be imported, but which today would demand a considerable amount of currency.

Raul also held a lively conversation with Comrade (Raciel Bovines), a civilian worker who has been in the unit for 18 years, a National Vanguard member for the past three years, and whose contributions are decisive solutions for the Air Force operation.

At the technical research unit, master engineer, (Raul Trinchet), graduate of the Technical Military Institute,

showed the Army general other achievements in fighter plane repair, and the creation of basic materials for study. Proof of the quality of work is the fact that no aircraft from this unit has experienced an accident due to technical failure over the past three years. During the chat with Raul, Master Engineer (Trinchet) said that his efforts are inspired by the metaphorical words of the minister when he said that inventions during the special period could reach the point of flying an aircraft by a gasoline-operated generator.

[Begin recording] [Raul] [passage indistinct] ... from generals to the last soldier, to civilian workers, technicians, and engineers, you are a good example. So, allow me to congratulate you on behalf of the commander in chief, on behalf of my fellow comrades who are accompanying me, and for myself, wishing you greater success because now, as I told (Trinchet) a few minutes ago, that our technicians, engineers, experts, having reached an accomplished level, life is forcing us to develop even further. We must admire this, especially since you are responsible for such a fate. [sentence indistinct]

But that is not the essential point. The essential thing is that with what we have, we are capable of solving problems such as those you have solved. Is that correct, Comander?

[Unidentified colonel] Yes, General.

[Raul] Then, I ask my comrades who are accompanying me, that as a humble homage to you, and through you to everyone throughout the country, to recognize that our air force, our DAAFAR, and our Armed Forces have achieved and have greatly contributed to maintaining the fighting capacity of our FAR, and in an increasingly less expensive manner, as we said recently.

We are going to have, or are continuing to have the most powerful Armed Forces in Latin America, and besides, the least costly Armed Forces. And you here play an essential role, repairing an engine, or carrying out some of those activities that Engineer (Trinchet) just explained.

(Negrin), we are talking here about millions of dollars. [passage indistinct] I ask for applause for these officers, our comrades. [applause] [end recording]

## Holguin's Scientific Hub Develops New Cane Harvester

*FL1102193694 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 11 Feb 94*

[Text] Soon, the prototype of a sugarcane harvester capable of operating in wet soil will be tested. The project is being developed by the Center for the Development of Agricultural Machinery of the scientific hub in Holguin Province. The new machine includes a trailer or cart and its basic mechanism is similar to that of the KTP. The new harvester uses tracks [esteras] instead of tires and is much lighter than the conventional harvester to prevent damage to the cane stumps when the water content of the soil exceeds the normal limits.

This project is one of the four tasks assigned to the scientific hub of Holguin in view of a need to equip the country with machinery capable of continuing the harvest during rainy seasons.

## Castro Meets With French Business Delegation

*FL1102164194 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1502 GMT 11 Feb 94*

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and of Ministers, has met with the delegation of the National Council of French Employers headed by Jean Pierre Desgeorges, vice president of that council. Also present at that meeting were Genevieve (Buruan), of the directorate of Foreign Economic Relations of the French Ministry of Economy; Jean Raphael Dufour, French ambassador to Cuba; Daniel (Patat), the delegation's trade and economic adviser; and the other 32 delegation members, who are businessmen.

Fidel and the French discussed important aspects of the world economy, as well as the results of the French visitors' numerous meetings and interviews in Cuba.

## Special People's Government Sessions Analyze Budget

*FL1402004994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Feb 94*

[Text] The budget for the current year is the object of special attention by the Provincial Assemblies of the People's Government, which have held or scheduled special sessions to analyze this matter. Journalist Gisela Bel Heredia comments on this topic.

[Bel, live or recorded] The qualitative change in the way the state budget is being discussed and approved at various levels can be considered an important part of the battle won. With regard to the budget projections for 1994, from approval that was almost a mere formality, approval essentially handled internally by specialists, responsibility for rigor and awareness of each and every figure, as well as knowledge of the funds' destinations, are no longer theirs alone. Indeed, those who bear responsibility for finances and for requesting or granting more money have not been left alone. Rather, those who manage the various spheres or organizations have been called upon—and, moreover, insistently—to fully grasp the budget in question.

Furthermore, in order to reduce the budget deficit in every province, for example, action plans have been provided for, plans in which the word "monitoring" is written in capital letters.

For the delegates of the local People's Government assemblies and the deputies of the National Assembly, to approve the budget or not turns into an exercise that requires a position much more collegial and realistic,

assuming the characteristics conferred upon them by the Constitution of the Republic. We thus reach the conclusion that, although open to important improvements, the new stance vis-a-vis the budget is not a simple skirmish, but rather a battle that heavily influences victory in the long run.

## Roundup of Economic Activity

*FL1202015994*

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on economic developments in Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 8 and 11 February.

Radio Rebelde at 1255 GMT on 8 February reports that a miscellaneous crops plenum was held in Cienfuegos Province at which it was announced that an additional 400 caballerias of plantain are going to be planted in Cienfuegos Province, above and beyond those under the current agricultural plan. Also, in salute to 26 July, 42 organic plots are to be added to the present 15.

Radio Rebelde at 1800 GMT on 8 February reports that in 1993 Cuba received approximately $50 million in diverse donations—mainly food, medicine, and school supplies—channeled by the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples [ICAP] from 72 countries. ICAP President Sergio Corrieri added that 11 international brigades visited Cuba in 1993, and 32 cultural delegations traveled abroad.

Cuba Vision Network at 0100 GMT on 9 February reports that the Faustino Vega rice mill in Manzanillo, Granma Province, has fulfilled its 1993 goal by husking a total of 8,500 tons of rice. This rice mill belongs to the Fernando Chenique Rice Company, which must plant 2,000 caballerias of rice this year, the largest number in the country. With an industrial performance of 64 percent, the Faustino Vega rice mill is also one of the best in this area.

Radio Rebelde at 1255 GMT on 9 February reports that the Antillana de Acero enterprise produced 8,000 tons of steel in January. This year's plan per four-month period is 50,000 tons.

Radio Reloj at 1508 GMT on 9 February reports that Pinar del Rio Province has approximately 170 caballerias of land planted in miscellaneous crops, earmarked for use by schools. These are self-sufficiency plots. In 1993, 62 percent of the schools' needs in food were provided for by these plots. Over 64,000 quintals of miscellaneous food crops were produced in Pinar del Rio Province in 1993. This year, the School of Medical Sciences and other centers of higher learning will be given land to cultivate for self-sufficiency.

Radio Rebelde at 0000 GMT on 10 February reports that Federico Ramon Puerta, governor of the Argentine province of Misiones, announced a donation to Cuba of 28 tons of paper. He announced this shortly before his departure for Argentina after a visit to several Cuban provinces. He was accompanied by Argentine Ambassador (Susana Sara Grane) [Diplomatic List shows Adolfo Enrique Nanclares as Argentine ambassador to Cuba), and Pedro Chavez, president of Havana's People's Government.

Radio Rebelde at 1255 GMT on 10 February reports on an "experiment" underway in the food industry in Sibanicu Municipality, Camaguey Province, where workers are receiving a portion of the profits from sales at all centers, in lieu of salaries. "The worker earns according to his sales, receiving some 20 or 30 percent of what he sells." Omar del Risco, the local first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, explains that a unit's administrator is authorized to negotiate and purchase products from specific places and to manage the entire supply process for the unit. The administrator also decides, after consulting with the workers, how many workers should be kept at a given unit. Del Risco notes that "by distributing 20 percent among the workers, the workers try to have as few workers as possible. They do not keep anyone they do not need. Since they are paid in profits, they try to reduce costs to a minimum. They are tripling sales but lowering costs, and of course, there is an improvement in income." Del Risco notes that working for profit seems to motivate workers.

Radio Rebelde at 1800 GMT on 11 February reports that at the end of an extensive tour of San Cristobal Municipality cane-growing areas, Fidel Ramos, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] in Pinar del Rio Province, has issued a call to catch up and to increase both efficiency and the amount of sugar produced during the current harvest. Rebelde's correspondent notes that workers are working around the clock at the 30 de Noviembre agroindustrial complex to get a 1,000-cubic-meter water tank operative again because problems with it paralyzed the sugar mill's operations. Ramos also inspected the Basic Cooperative Production Units' [UBPCs'] planting areas and a Youth Labor Army military grange. Along with Jose Marrero Camacho, like Ramos a member of the PCC's Central Committee and also president of the Provincial Assembly of the People's Government in Pinar del Rio, Ramos participated in a seminar for the economists of the 47 cane sector UBPC in the province, as well as in an overall inspection of the sugar harvest in Pinar del Rio.

Radio Rebelde at 1255 GMT on 11 February reports that the country's objective is to plant more than 18,000 caballerias of sugarcane by the end of June 1994, the largest figure over the past 13 years. Thus far, 61 percent of that program has already been achieved. Havana and Cienfuegos Provinces are leading in this planting program.

Rebelde adds that the Armed Forces will be in charge of maintaining more than 11,000 light and heavy tractors, and more than 11,000 previously inoperative light trucks, to participate in this new Cuban agricultural project. The Armed Forces has the most experience and best techniques for maintaining both Armed Forces and agricultural equipment.

The same newscast reports that despite the economic crisis affecting the country, there are and have always been the fraternal hands of many governments and institutions supporting our government. Such is the case with the Spanish Government, which in 1993 alone contributed approximately $5 million worth of donations. Spanish ambassador to Havana Jose Antonio San Gil said his government hopes to maintain and further develop cooperation with Cuba. In 1993, the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation brought 337 tons of powdered milk for children. Spain also contributed, with $550,000 worth of medicine in 1993.

### 'Authorities' Hasten To Train Accident Site

*FL1402124194 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] A regrettable railroad accident occured this morning in Remedios, Villa Clara Province.

[Journalist Boris Fuentes] "Four dead and 64 injured was the toll of a train accident that occurred at 0740 on 13 February, when a bridge at a place known as Tahon suffered damage. Tahon is part of Remedios Municipality. The train consisted of seven cars and two locomotives, and was covering the Santa Clara/Moron/Nuevitas route for the northern line.

The dead are: Luis Garcia Sanchez, from Sancti Spiritus Province; Felix Aguila Morales, from Remedios; Pedro Antonio Gomez Alonso, from Santa Clara; and Alberto Munoz Alvarez, from Placetas.

Shortly after the event, Cuban Communist Party and Government authorities and a group of experts appeared in person at the site to investigate the causes of the accident.

One of the most direct sources of the events is the train's driver, Manuel Rodriguez."

[Rodriguez] "When... [rephrases] accident... [rephrases] upon going over the bridge, the locomotive that was in front gave a leap [bachon], and the train broke in two. I had pulled the emergency (?brake) there. I... [rephrases] It was the bridge that was the cause of..."[breaks off, interrupted by unidentified journalist]

[Journalist] "How fast were you going?"

[Rodriguez] "Forty, forty-five...."[voice trails off]

[Journalist] "Was that permissible, on this track?"

[Rodriguez] "No. Sixty."

[Fuentes] The director of the Central Cuba division of Cuban Railways [Ferrocarriles de Cuba] also comments on what has happened."

[Director] "It looks like the bridge has been affected, and an investigation must be conducted to see if some element in the bridge failed, or whether there was another, as yet unknown cause. A definitive cause has not yet been found."

[Fuentes] Thirty-one people are currently in Villa Clara hospitals, nine of them seriously injured, another nine with slight injuries, and 13 under observation. The province's Defense Council has announced that a ministerial commission that will conduct a thorough investigation into the causes of the accident has already been created.

"This is a Boris Fuentes report from Villa Clara."

We learned just a few minutes ago that one more person has died: Olga Hernandez, from Zulueta, Villa Clara Province.

### Matanzas Engineering Regiment Awarded for Outstanding Work

*FL1202143894 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Feb 94*

[Text] The Matanzas engineering regiment has been once again rewarded for its outstanding work. Making a sustained effort in refurbishing the theater of military operations and in maintaining techniques, the Central Army engineering regiment obtained the special Victoria-25 Emulation award. Engineering Unit 3170 received the award of being the first group of its type in the country, and the banner that raises it to the level of National Vanguard of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, an award obtained for the sixth consecutive year.

During 1993 this unit made laudable efforts to build tunnels, silos, and firing positions, and achieved considerable progress in conserving resources and improving the troops' living conditions.

On evaluating the fighting capacity of the regiment, Division General Joaquin Quintas Solas said:

[Begin recording] The fighting readiness of this regiment, as well as that of the other regular units, the militia, and the production and defense units throughout the Army territory, is high and is equal to the times in which we are living today. All warriors clearly understand that only by fighting does one enter this country, and one leaves—well, we all know how, if one manages to leave.

I was told that the readiness of this unit is very satisfactory, an outstanding grade within the Revolutionary Armed Forces. [end recording]

## ΩViews, Reports on Chiapas Rebellion

*94P20362A*

[Editorial Report] Recent Mexican press coverage of the rebellion in Chiapas, which includes commentaries and reports of official and local views, touches on a broad range of topics, including the rebellion's ideological and organizational origins, political and economic factors promoting it, guerrilla methods of operation, viability of the movement, and the national political ramifications of the uprising.

### Paz Stresses Particularity

Poet and Nobel laureate Octavio Paz characterizes the revolt as a manifestation of problems peculiar to Chiapas, rendering it unlikely to spread to other states. In his view, the Chiapas rebellion bears traits more akin to Guatemala and El Salvador than to other parts of Mexico. Paz observes that the guerrillas' statements reflect a mix of elements: Maoism, liberation theology, and ideas borrowed from Peru's Shining Path, and Central American revolutionary movements, "in sum, the remains of the great shipwreck of 20th-century revolutionary ideologies." He pronounces the uprising "unreal and...doomed to failure...[and out of touch] with our country's situation and its needs and current aspirations." He adds that "the Indian communities have been deceived by a group of irresponsible demagogues, and these are the ones who should be held accountable before the law and the nation." He retreats somewhat in his conclusion, however, saying that the leaders of the rebellion "are not the only ones responsible. A big share of the blame—perhaps the biggest, in historical and moral terms—rests with the well-off classes in Chiapas and many state politicians. What has happened should serve notice that if there is any place in Mexico where social, political, economic, and moral reform is necessary, that place is Chiapas." (Mexico City LA JORNADA 5 Jan 94)

### Modernization Need Seen

Historian, novelist, and editor of the Mexico City monthly NEXOS Hector Aguilar Camin similarly criticizes the intellectual underpinnings of the revolt as remnants of Cold War leftist thinking, attributing special responsibility to church base communities and "groups of religious" inspired by liberation theology and the Catholic Church's "option for the poor." He declares "the Catholic Church as a whole and the Church in Chiapas in particular have some explaining to do to Mexican society about its radicalized wing, which appears to be the central actor in the makeup of the conflagration in Chiapas." Aguilar Camin concludes that "the explosion in Chiapas appears more like the last chapter of the now past Central American wars than the first chapter of any future violent instability in Mexico," adding that the rebellion's "cathartic eruption does not deny, but rather confirms, the process of internationalization in the country: the end of its proud insularity; the permeability of all its borders to the fair and ill winds of the world. And rather than refute, the rebellion ratifies the urgency of the modernization already undertaken, bringing to the fore the essential modernizations of the future," which he identifies as (1) a "political agreement that completes the pending democratic transition and sets aside violence as an alternative for public action," and (2) an "awareness that galvanizes the national will once and for all to confront the evils of poverty as the leading challenge and inescapable condition for the modernity that Mexicans neither can nor should abandon." (Mexico City PROCESO 10 Jan 94)

### Chiapas Official Assessment

A Chiapas State document, identified by LA JORNADA as a confidential report to high levels of government in Mexico City, voices state government concerns over possible future violence in 42 "high risk" municipalities, as occurred in Ocosingo, Altamirano, Las Margaritas, and San Cristobal de las Casas. The list includes: Yajalon, Chilon, Tila, Tumbala, Citala, Sabanilla, Salto de Agua, Palenque, Nicolas Ruiz, Chiapilla, San Lucas, Venustiano Carranza, Villa de las Rosas, Socoltenango, Teopizca, Simojovel, El Bosque, Huitiuipan, Pueblo Nuevo, Bochil, Jitotol, Pantepec, Tapalapea, Rayon, Tapilula, Ocotopec, Coapilla, Tecpatan, Copainala, Francisco Leon, Chenhalon, Larrainzer, Chalchihuetan, Pantelho, Sinacatan, Tenejapa, Chamula, Chanal, Huixtan, Oxchuc, Angel Albino Corzo, and La Concordia.

The 16-page document, titled "Political Diagnosis of the Conflict Zone," also names 13 areas in various other municipalities requiring what LA JORNADA calls "special surveillance": In Cacahuatan, the municipality's main town of Agustin Iturbide and Salvador Urbina; in Union Juarez, the Santo Domingo ejido and Once de Abril; in Tapachula, the ejidos of Manacal, Chespal, Mexiquito, Toquiancito and Toquian; in Motozintla, the ejidos of Belisario Dominguez and Male Cuaresma; in Amatenango de la Frontera, Pajayal ejido; and in Ciltepec, the municipality's main town.

According to the LA JORNADA account, the document devotes considerable attention to the economic and political problems it sees as the root of the conflict. It notes that the "considerable investments" made by the federal government have been "insufficient in comparison with the needs of the region" and notes that rural residents have been hurt by tight credit that has affected coffee, corn, and cattle operations; inadequate supply and marketing systems; the burden of past due loans; and a government decree "that makes the region an ecological reserve and blocks cattle and forestry operations without offering alternative means to survival." The document identifies other serious problems as the drop in coffee and cattle prices, the presence in the state of large numbers of Guatemalan refugees and workers, a high rate of alcoholism, the activities of middlemen, drug trafficking, and racial discrimination. Also seen as contributing to the unrest is the "activism...of social organizations and the religious activism" of priests,

deacons, catechists, and, particularly, the bishop of San Cristobal de las Casas, Samuel Ruiz.

The document urges the cancellation of past due debts accumulated by impoverished coffee growers and cattle ranchers, and a change in the government's attitude toward peasants to demonstrate, in LA JORNADA's words, "a treatment respectful of their dignity as humans, taking care that individuals assigned to the region are socially committed, with special attention being given to securing and administering justice." It further recommends establishing a single, microregional governmental point of contact in each municipality, as well as the creation of additional municipalities out of what are now the municipalities of Ocosingo and Las Margaritas. The document also recommends a policy of cooperation with the churches, particularly the Catholic Church.

LA JORNADA notes in passing that the document reports the area affected by the rebellion as inhabited not only by Tojolabal, Tzeltal, and Chol Indians, but also "mestizos from Michoacan, Guerrero, Puebla, and Oaxaca." (LA JORNADA 9 Jan 94)

**Indian Support Cited**

In two interviews, Carlos Montemayor, author of the novel "Guerra en el Paraiso" ("War in Paradise," set during the insurgency in Guerrero in the 1960's and 1970's) and specialist in guerrilla affairs, characterizes the rebellion as the "tip of the iceberg" of discontent, asserting that it is supported by a vast network that has discreetly supplied food, money, information, and protection to the guerrillas through a complex Indian social and familial organization. He asserts that "Indian family structure is at once very simple and very complex. Deep-running communication, social organization, and economic networks run up and down the mountains, rivers, and forests of Mexico's various regions. It is very hard for groups, movements, or individuals from outside the area to pass unnoticed. My experience has been that whether one is talking about rural, mestizo, or creole areas, the mountains and forests have more eyes than the cities. It is impossible not only for vehicles but even for individuals to move about undetected."

Montemayor appeals to federal and state governments to enter into negotiations with the Indian communities in which for the first time concessions would be made not only by the authorities but also by Chiapas's large land, cattle, and timber interests, and the rights of the Indian communities would be protected. He then cautions that these negotiations will be fruitless "if there is no will among Chiapas's creoles and mestizos, landholders and politicians to stop thinking like 17th-century encomenderos [Spanish royal Indian labor grantees] and if the government and the army do not refrain from seeing these negotiations as a defeat rather than a social victory in the very evolution of the country." Montemayor warns against seeking a strictly military solution to the rebellion; such movements, bred over a long period, are "very resistant" to suppression, and seeking only a military solution "could lead us to a Central Americanization" of the situation. (LA JORNADA 4 Jan 94, PROCESO 10 Jan 94)

**Antecedents Reviewed**

In a wide-ranging review of the rebellion's antecedents, Luis Hernandez Navarro, an adviser to the National Coordinating Board of Coffee Grower Organizations, asserts in the 9 January LA JORNADA that while colonization of the Lacandon Forest region was begun by lumber companies, area settlement received a major impetus in the 1940's from the many migrants who arrived there after unsuccessful efforts elsewhere in the country to secure a piece of land through the nation's agrarian reform program.

Discussing the role of the Church, he adds that, as part of the "enterprise of building communities and lives where there had been none before," the settlers came to rely upon the presence and sympathy of the Catholic Church, while at the same time there was a "notable absence of government institutions," making "religion" one of the "key foundations upon which the new communities were built." According to Hernandez Navarro, catechists not only provided religious instruction but also became key elements in linking communities with the outside world. Educated and mobile, many of them having a mastery of Spanish, they unquestionably became the "organic intellectuals" of their congregations.

Observing how the struggle for regularization of land claims and the delivery of government services also marked the area's development, Hernandez Navarro points out that a division of opinion arose as how best to seek improvements: "democratic organizations" sought to promote "peasant self-development"; others felt that only systemic change brought about through armed force could solve the problem. He says groups like the Rural Associations of Collective Interest-Union of Unions are an example of the first approach, and that what is today known as the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) is an expression of the second. Hernandez Navarro writes that the main arena of activity for years was occupied by the self-development groups, despite resistance from state governments; but some three years ago this approach began gradually to lose influence among the region's inhabitants, owing to years of conflict with landholders and their "white guards," who monopolized state government institutions and resources and blocked the flow of resources (itself inadequate) the federal government sought to channel into Indian communities through its programs. Elaborating on the federal programs, he claims that for "many of those initiatives it had been intended to use the local elites as promoters of modernization; and on top of this, the ongoing dismantling of government institutions that was part of the reform of the state has created a vacuum which has been only partially filled by democratic organizations." (With respect to one such program, the National Solidarity Program, Pronasol, journalist

Miguel Angel Granados Chapa notes in a 9 January Monterrey EL NORTE commentary the Pronasol claim that prior to 1993 its funding for Chiapas was obliged to submit to traditional, inefficient state government controls under then Governor Patrocinio Gonzalez Blanco Garrido.)

These problems were compounded by a drop in earnings from the state's key products, writes Hernandez Navarro. Timber, protected since 1989 by conservation regulations, ceased to be a source of income. Coffee growers were hurt not only by the fall in international coffee prices from $120/140 per 100 pounds to $60/70, but also by the disappearance of government marketing and technical assistance. A decline in corn productivity resulted from population pressures and a contraction of the slash-and-burn cycle from 30 years to only two years. Also cited is the declining profitability of the cattle industry.

**Catechists' Role Noted**

A Tzotzil Indian interviewed in Huixtan (Chiapas) by LA JORNADA, who asked to have his identity withheld, addressed the role of catechists in the rebellion. Without identifying them, the Indian says that catechists who had taught him 20 years earlier were the ones who "tried to convince us to join the guerrillas" the morning of 1 January, when 300 EZLN members occupied the town's main square. He identifies the catechists turned guerrillas as current residents of the town who had once held "positions of authority" in the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). He also says that most of the rebel force, consisting of both men and women, ranges between the ages of 16 and 20, and that in talking with the guerrillas he learned that they communicate with each other by using skyrockets and red lanterns. (LA JORNADA 7 and 8 Jan 94)

**Political Aspects Emphasized**

While maintaining that economic injustice played a crucial part in fomenting the rebellion, four prominent commentators emphatically stress in separate commentaries that inadequate political reform was an equally important factor, one that, if neglected, threatens unrest during the August presidential elections.

Linking Chiapan developments with the prospects for societal peace nationally, PRI member of the Federal District Assembly of Representatives and political reform advocate Demetrio Sodi de la Tijera writes that the rebellion "is not just about changing social conditions, nor is it a problem of resources or solidarity." He argues that it is "basically a rebellion over political conditions, government corruption, electoral fraud, and the imposition of officials from above, a response to plotting by officials and caciques, injustices, lawbreaking, and repression that Indian communities suffer every day, and infringements of the law that occur in many parts of the country and that affect the majority of Mexicans." In the aftermath of the rebellion, "the danger of social explosions occurring in other parts of the country and becoming generalized" has "risen immensely," especially if the upcoming election's results are "unacceptable" to "political forces" in the country. (LA JORNADA 7 Jan 94)

Drawing heavily on Thomas Benjamin's 1989 historical study "A Rich Land, A Poor People: Politics and Society in Modern Chiapas" to document his case that unjust social and economic structures dominate Chiapas, Colegio de Mexico international relations specialist Lorenzo Meyer argues that "the challenge facing Mexico as a whole and her political class in particular is deeper and more serious than that which brought the government to negotiate the free trade agreement with the United States." What is involved, he said, is "negotiating, under difficult circumstances, a new political pact between those who govern and a majority of the governed" that recognizes "their status as citizens and redistributes in a less unjust manner the burden of economic development, without any of the irresponsible acts, chicanery, corruption, and shams that have made the Mexican political class world famous ('the perfect dictatorship')." (Mexico City EXCELSIOR 6 Jan 94)

National Autonomous University of Mexico political scientist Jorge Castaneda similarly criticizes the political as well as economic roots of the rebellion during an interview and then asserts that "the problems of poverty are not resolved with money alone, because the problem is not one of expenditures but rather one of structures, of organization, for [Indians] to participate in decisions concerning their communities, jobs, decent treatment by officials, the return of lands, etc." On account of this, Castaneda sees the political system facing a dilemma, a "political crisis," because to carry out the needed reform, the government will have to weaken the powerful economic and social interests upon which the system is built and which remain outside the control of elected officials. For him, the rebellion signals that citizens have reached their "limit," and that if there is a failure to achieve an "electoral process that is clean and acceptable to everyone, there is a danger of violence." (PROCESO 10 Jan 94)

In a Spanish-language version of his NEW YORK TIMES Syndicate column carried by LA JORNADA, novelist Carlos Fuentes stresses the importance of democratic political reform as a prerequisite for a successful and just economic reform undertaken by the government. He emphasizes that propagation of democracy must start at the most elemental level, "in the smallest villages, where the inhabitants know each other and know how to choose the best persons. All democracy starts by being local.... On the other hand, the central authorities almost always impose the worst officials [upon communities].... Only they are able to work with the Chiapan oligarchy." In his view, the "Mexican political and economic system, antidemocratic and unjust, shares responsibility for the explosion in Chiapas." Fuentes sees achievement of parallel political and economic reforms in Chiapas as a necessary first step in

the genuine "economic, political, and cultural transformation" of the country. (LA JORNADA 7 Jan 94)

### ΩOCEZ Denies Ties, Criticizes Organizers

*94P20363A*

[Editorial Report] More than two months before the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) rebellion in Chiapas, the 25 October PROCESO carried a 23 September letter to the editor from the Emiliano Zapata Peasant Organization (OCEZ), denying any involvement in earlier Chiapas guerrilla activities. Such guerrilla activity had been alleged by Jesuit priest Mardonio Morales in the 13 September issue of the magazine (for this and related reports, see the 9 December FBIS LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT). The OCEZ letter also criticizes high-level officials who prior to beginning their government careers were involved in leftist political activities in Chiapas during the 1970's.

The letter asserts that since its formation in 1982 the OCEZ has operated entirely within the law in its struggle for land and in its organizing activities throughout Chiapas. It also acknowledges that the group that eventually became the OCEZ had had political ties with a Maoist group, the Popular Line (which later became the Proletarian Line), or so-called "northerners," during the period March-August 1978. The letter concedes that "we dealt with Adolfo Orive, Javier Gil, and another two dozen 'cadres' who came to Chiapas to develop 'support bases'" but claims that in the course of our dealings "we discovered serious contradictions between their radical phraseology and their actual behavior, most notably: their great waste of economic resources, their unusual links with public officials, a so-called 'two-faced policy,' a disguised pro-government approach, manipulation and immorality—all of which clashed with our viewpoints and principles and prompted us to break relations with them." In addition, the letter denies that the OCEZ ever sought to penetrate the Church to increase its influence, as charged by Father Mardonio.

The letter's criticism of the northern organizers' integrity touches on an issue already raised in the press: the government's reported efforts to recruit leftists for government service. The 13 September PROCESO report itself, for instance, asserts that while Orive had been a professor in the School of Economics at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, where he founded the Popular Line and Proletarian Line groups, he has since gone on to serve as current training director of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI)-affiliated National Peasant Confederation (CNC) and as a director of the National Solidarity Program (Pronasol) as well as adviser to Pronasol Coordinator Carlos Rojas Gutierrez. The letter also implicitly criticizes former Popular Line leader Hugo Andres Araujo de la Torre, who is identified as a PRI federal deputy and CNC secretary general by Father Mardonio in the 13 September PROCESO report. A 7 September 1992 PROCESO article on political recruitment had described the careers of Orive (written there as "Oribe," but clearly referring to the same person) and Araujo, adding that the latter "had passed through almost the entire gamut of organizations on the left, ranging from radical Maoists to the...Popular Action Movement." A 9 December 1991 PROCESO article had identified Araujo as sharing a "compadre," or godparent, relationship with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

### ΩPronasol Chiapas, National Budget Data

*94P20364A*

[Editorial Report] An unattributed report notes that the State of Chiapas received the equivalent of 1.590 billion new pesos in National Solidarity Program (Pronasol) funding over the last five years, representing 6.44 percent of all Pronasol disbursements to Mexico's 31 states and the Federal District. An earlier report noted Social Development Secretary Carlos Rojas Gutierrez's 15 December statement that Pronasol's national budget for 1994 would total 8.8 billion new pesos. (LA JORNADA 7 Jan 94 and 16 Dec 93)

### Defense Secretariat Bulletin 29 on Chiapas

*PA1402163794 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0435 GMT 12 Feb 94*

[Bulletin No. 29 issued by the Defense Secretariat in Mexico City on 11 February; from the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] Several news media have reported the exodus of the indigenous population toward larger cities and townships because of the armed conflict in the state of Chiapas. Although the National Defense Secretariat has kept the public informed about the violence unleashed by the rebels against both people and property, it wishes to offer the following figures and information in an attempt to provide the people with a more complete picture—a picture to which they are entitled.

1. The migratory flow toward major cities and towns in the region originates in the villages and hamlets under rebel control or influence.

2. Testimony by the people who have sought shelter and protection at the refugee camps indicates that they fled their villages after being stripped of their land, animals, crops, and property, and because of constant harassment for refusing to join the armed groups.

3. As of this time, 19,188 displaced inhabitants are at various shelters or with relatives and friends in the areas under Army protection listed below:

In Escarcega, Campeche, there are 207 people; at individual homes in Chanal there are 50; in (Ochuc), 100; in La Trinitaria, 1,042; in San Cristobal de Las Casas, 250; at shelters in Ocosingo, 544 and 8,206 more are with friends or relatives; in Altamirano there are 403; and in Las Margaritas, 8,283. The total number of all refugees is 19,085. [figures as heard]

## Remains of 3 Persons Discovered in Chiapas

*PA1402171994 Paris AFP in Spanish 0511 GMT 12 Feb 94*

[Text] San Cristobal de las Casas, Mexico, 11 Feb (AFP)—The remains of three people who had been arrested by the Mexican Army were found today in Chiapas by members of the nongovernment organizations (ONG) that work to defend human rights.

Martin Faz from the National Network of Civilian Organizations All Rights for All [Red Nacional de Organismos Civiles Todos los Derechos para Todos] assured at a news conference that Severino, Sebastian, and Hermelindo Santiz were arrested by the Army on 7 January in Altamirano, one of the municipalities taken over by guerrillas. Since then, they had been reported as missing.

Faz said ONG members today found the "remains, bones, clothing, and footware, allowing us to assure that they correspond to the people who were reported as missing." According to Faz, reports from residents of Morelia in Altamirano municipality indicate that the three people were "arbitrarily arrested by some Mexican Army soldiers on 7 January." Fax added that "there is no doubt" that the remains correspond to those three people; a relative has identified the clothing and a "dental bridge" that belonged to one of the missing.

Thomas Craine, a member of the organization Medical Doctors for Human Rights [Medicos por los Derechos Humanos] that participated in the search, said, "We did not find evidence of the cause of death, but we have asked for a completed forensic and anthropological investigation." Craine said the remains have been turned over to the Attorney General's Office and the National Commission for Human Rights which had initiated earlier investigations.

The Mexican Army's conduct during the Indian armed rebellion has been criticized by the ONG for engaging in extreme actions, such as secret executions and arbitrary arrests.

## Defense Secretariat Denies Involvement in Slayings

*PA1402175794 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[From the "Good Morning From Mexico" newscast]

[Text] The National Defense Secretariat has issued a bulletin denying the Mexican Army's alleged participation in the murder of three people in the area of Morelia, Altamirano, Chiapas State.

In reply to a request made by various political and human rights organizations that requested clarification of the incident, the National Defense Secretariat said the Mexican Army never carried out any action to arrest, much less to murder these individuals, given that on 7 January there was no military presence in the area.

The Defense Secretariat added that at the request of the people, the Army arrested 32 individuals who had broken the law, clarifying that this occurred five days after the armed confrontation began. The Army turned over the 32 arrested individuals to local authorities after a public medical examination was made to determine their physical condition, the bulletin concluded.

## EZLN Chooses Delegates for Talks With Government

*PA1402172194 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[From the "Good Morning From Mexico" newscast]

[Text] Commissioner for Peace and Reconciliation in Chiapas Manuel Camacho Solis announced on 13 February that the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army] has elected its delegates to the peace talks. Camacho Solis asked federal and state government agencies to abstain from carrying out any action that could hinder the peace process. He also asked journalists to be patient with regard to the announcement on the place and date for the meeting, which he said will be held in Chiapas State.

## Correction to Peasant Indian Organizations Support EZLN

*WA1502170394*

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Peasant, Indian Organizations Support EZLN," which appeared in the 10 February Latin America DAILY REPORT, pages 11-12:

Fifth paragraph, third sentence reads... cancellation of the past due debts," which amounts to... (providing correct translation)

## Costa Rica

### Figueres Discusses NAFTA, Development

*PA1302044094 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0435 GMT 9 Feb 94*

[Interview with Costa Rican President-elect Jose Maria Figueres Olsen in San Jose, Costa Rica, by Jacobo Zabludovsky from the XEW Television studios in Mexico City; from the "24 Hours" newscast—live relay]

[Text] [Zabludovsky] Good evening, Mr. Figueres.

[Figueres] Good evening, Don Jacobo. It is nice to say hello to you.

[Zabludovsky] Thank you very much. Congratulations on your victory. What do you hope to accomplish in Costa Rica?

[Figueres] Thank you. I greatly appreciate your kind words. Ahead of me I have the clear responsibility to fight poverty—the main problem we face as a country—in two areas. One is the impoverishment process suffered by our middle class, the backbone of our democratic system and our national production. The other area in which we need to fight poverty is the poverty and extreme poverty some sectors of our population are living in.

[Figueres] Jose Maria, you are the son of someone who was a great friend of mine—the three times Costa Rican President Don Jose Figueres, whom I remember very fondly. He also tried to end poverty in Costa Rica and was unsuccessful. What are your plans to accomplish this?

[Figueres] Don Jacobo, I believe this is an endless struggle, and there are always new wars to wage. The important thing is to persevere. The important thing is to have the social awareness, to admit that Costa Rica has been successful in many fields because we have always been a country united in solidarity. Costa Rica should not lose our fatherland's solidarity in the face of modernizing and integrating into the world economy. We have indeed advanced toward globalization since 1982, during the administration of Don Luis Alberto Monge, but we want to be able to participate in the world economy in a much more intelligent way—a way in which we can offer the benefits of this integration to all sectors of our society and not only to a select few.

[Zabludovsky] Do you intend to seek admittance into NAFTA?

[Figueres] We are very pleased that NAFTA has been ratified. We believe this is a great step forward in the integration of our economies by the signatory countries. To us, it also represents a challenge, because the truth of the matter is that we have the impression that NAFTA places us at a relative disadvantage in attracting the foreign investment our country needs, as well as in the competitiveness of our products, especially within the U.S. market.

We believe the countries that have signed NAFTA are not very willing to increase the number of participants until they first see the effect the treaty has on their own economies. I believe that in Central America and in the Caribbean we have the responsibility of seeking the understanding of Mexico, the United States, and Canada to enable the Caribbean Basin Initiative, which has benefited our economies, to offer us the same options and opportunities available to members of NAFTA. This would allow us to continue strengthening our economies and to give greater support to the very positive political changes we have seen in this area these past few years.

[Zabludovsky] Mr. Figueres, Central America and the Caribbean are now somewhat quiet but not completely quiet. Some 40 years ago your father abolished the Army in Costa Rica and gave your country a distinct image in the area. Do you not fear Costa Rica might be contaminated by nearby unrest?

[Figueres] No sir, not at all. We abolished the Army 45 years ago. This has allowed our country to invest in health, education, infrastructure, and telecommunications by way of a series of programs that have brought much well-being to Costa Rica. Costa Rica respects the domestic decisions of every country. We will also always be at the head of human rights causes and will be prepared to contribute as much as possible to a greater peace and calm in the Central American region. This can lead to a reduction of military budgets and to the apportionment of those resources to social programs.

[Zabludovsky] As president-elect you now have a different function and you must prepare your programs in ways different from the way you prepared them when you were a candidate. You will be sworn in on 8 May. What will you be doing from now until then, basically?

[Figueres] We outlined a very clear platform during our campaign. Our government commitment is to fulfill what we promised during the campaign. We are returning to a policy that gives prominence to domestic matters.

Economic and social concerns are two sides of the same coin. This requires looking not only at macroeconomic projects, which are important for the country's development, attracting foreign investments, and encouraging domestic investment, but also at microeconomic policies to encourage production among the national sectors that have lagged behind in recent years.

In the social field, this means investing more on health care, an area in which we have good services but still need to improve the quality of the services. There is a need for more investments in health care. There is much to be done to improve the quality of education, at both the primary school and higher-education, or university, levels.

I am saying this because our country wants to return to the path of sustained mid- and long-term development. We are going to make the government aware of the fact that our responsibility is not only to adopt day-to-day decisions, which of course are important and are a function of the government, but we also have the responsibility of directing our country and our society toward mid- and long-term objectives. This type of development must be sustained not only to preserve our natural resources and environment, which are new aspects that we must consider while engaging in national production and day-to-day life, but also to preserve and improve human life, which is after all, the objective of all of our policies.

Costa Rica wants to join the international economy and to compete on the basis of technology, quality, productivity, and efficiency, not on the basis of workers being paid low salaries. This kind of integration requires more investments in education.

[Zabludovsky] One last comment, perhaps the last question, Jose Maria: I met your father for the first time in 1956, which was also the first time I interviewed him. How old were you then?

[Figueres] I was two.

[Zabludovsky] Fine. At that time he was a unique person in Latin American politics, especially in Caribbean policies, because he was a civilian who enjoyed much prestige in an area where people like Fulgencio Batista and Anastasio Somoza were presidents. In that respect, your father was an odd-ball. He had no bodyguards and no fear, and he abolished the Army while others in other places were upgrading and strengthening their armies. My question is this: What did you inherit, personally and politically, from Pepe Figueres?

[Figueres] I am proud of my father and of my name. From him I learned to love the fatherland. I have that in my heart. I also learned how to value people for what they are and not for how much they have. I learned that work, regardless of how humble it might be, brings honor. With regard to public life, I learned that if one is going to engage in public life, one must do it to serve others, not to serve oneself.

With these principles and ideals in mind, I have participated in politics and will participate in our forthcoming administration.

[Zabludovsky] Thank you, Jose Maria. I wish you success in governing that grand country of yours: Costa Rica.

[Figueres] Thank you, Jacobo. Good night.

[Zabludovsky] Good night.

### Niehaus Says OAS Should Hold Americas Summit

*PA1002233694 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2219 GMT 10 Feb 94*

[Excerpts] San Jose, 10 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The Costa Rican Foreign Ministry announced today that it believes the Summit of the Americas proposed by the United States should be held by the OAS. [passage omitted]

Costa Rican Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus stressed that "without a doubt the summit will be of great importance for the future of America, but unfortunately the OAS, which is the appropriate international organization to hold such a summit, has not been taken into consideration."

Niehaus held a news conference during which he added that "we consider this initiative to be very important and welcome it without reservation, but it would be important if the meeting were organized and had the logistical support of the OAS in a parallel manner and with the will of all countries that form that organization."

## El Salvador

### Foreign Minister Explains Peace Process Advances

*PA1402145894 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 9 Feb 94 p 18*

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Miguel Angel Salaverria said yesterday before the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva that El Salvador is showing evidence that its peace process is irreversible and called on the commission to give El Salvador the credibility it deserves and to decide by consensus to remove it from the list of observed countries.

The speech by the Salvadoran foreign minister centered mainly on demonstrating that the country's regime has basically changed with regard to respect for and encouragement of human rights, as proven by the testimonies of various agents designated by the United Nations, such as Onusal [UN Observers for El Salvador], and the main UN and international community organs.

Salaverria said that El Salvador "is the only sovereign state that has encouraged and granted facilities for international on 'site' observance of the development of political events." He added that the 150 Onusal members move about freely and have all the means to fulfill their designated tasks.

After admitting that during the conflict "serious violations to human rights took place," Salaverria added that today "the topic should be viewed from a realistic perspective and according to the new existing circumstances." He admitted that there is a problem of common crime due to the postwar situation. Despite all this, he said that "it should not be linked to human rights violations by the state."

Salaverria gave assurances that Onusal's presence in El Salvador is the best national and international guarantee in the observance and verification of the country's human rights situation, because this is done directly and with the active presence and backing of the UN Security Council.

Minister Salaverria said that El Salvador has decidedly begun consolidating peace, implementing national reconciliation, placing emphasis on a legal state, and strengthening the democratic system.

On several occasions he insisted on the favorable evolution of human rights and pointed out how the administration of President Alfredo Cristiani is complying with the pledge made to the Salvadoran people and the international community. In fact, we have even gone "beyond it by giving new ideas to consolidate world peace."

In this area Salaverria mentioned the National Forum for Reflection on Education and Peace Culture organized by the Salvadoran Government in April 1993, which proved to be a valuable initiative.

He then added that because peace consolidation requires conceptualizing and putting it into practice, the government has made invitations to the First International Forum on Peace Culture, which will take place on 16 February in San Salvador with UNESCO [UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization] support. Numerous delegates are expected to attend.

When thanking the international community for the support given to the peace negotiation and consolidation process, he warned that this support could, however, run the risk of becoming "an obstacle" if the recommendations are followed by those who intend to maintain unnecessary observation in El Salvador "when undisputable evidence has been given that peace in El Salvador is irreversible and can only become stronger."

In this part of his speech, Foreign Minister Salaverria made his call for members of the UN Human Rights Commission to grant "the deserved credibility to the Salvadoran process and decide, by consensus, to remove El Salvador from its list."

He pointed out that El Salvador is on its way to an election on 20 March with the participation of all political forces, without any of them being hindered, that will be witnessed by international representatives from several states and by more than 1,500 observers.

## Defense Minister: Nikkens Report 'Politicized'

*PA1402153394 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 9 Feb 94 p 1*

[Article by Rene Hurtado]

[Text] Defense Minister General Humberto Corado Figueroa has said that the report presented by the United Nations, and which was written by Pedro Nikkens, stating that a systematic violation of human rights continues in El Salvador "is very politicized and not in accordance with the country's reality."

The aforementioned report was made public a few weeks ago. Nikkens states that human rights violations persist in our country. However, Gen. Corado believes that "these violations are not systematic nor are the number of violations as high as years ago. The report gives the impression that in our country there is a lot fear and that no activities can be conducted because it is not safe." Gen. Corado said: "It is indispensable that the United Nations draft these reports in a balanced and impartial manner and not politicize them."

With regard to the legalization of private weapons, Minister Corado said that the Defense Ministry is opening a special office where interested parties can go and request a license to carry a weapon. The first office will be opened in San Salvador. At a later date offices will be opened throughout the country. Corado said that the appropriate guidelines are being drafted and that they should be ready in the next few days.

Regarding the Salvadoran Air Force A-37 aircraft that crashed at sea off the coast of La Paz Department, Gen. Corado said that despite the efforts made it has been impossible to rescue the crew and that it is believed that the pilot, Captain Julio Cesar Godoy Aguirre, and technician, Juan Carlos Ramirez, died in the accident.

## Onusal Chief Says FMLN Demobilized 'Long Time Ago'

*PA1402225294 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 11 Feb 94 p 6*

[Text] "The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] was demobilized a long time ago," said Onusal [UN Observers for El Salvador] chief Augusto Ramirez Ocampo when commenting on General Mauricio Ernesto Vargas' statements that the FMLN was still armed.

Vargas, a member of the government commission that signed the peace accords, reportedly said yesterday there are FMLN groups that have yet to be demobilized.

"Vargas is misinformed," Ocampo said, adding "he (Vargas) was a witness" of the FMLN's total demobilization, which the United Nations has also affirmed.

He recalled that the FMLN's structure was dismantled in August 1993 and that FMLN leaders rejected any responsibility for weapons found in the future.

Ocampo said "everyone is protected by the law" now, and sanctions will be enforced against those who violate it.

Referring to human rights supervision in El Salvador, he said "this is the most supervised country in the world as far as human rights are concerned," adding there are three operations underway: a permanent operation by

the Onusal Human Rights Division, an independent observer, and one operation by the Human Rights Commission, which has its headquarters in Geneva.

He said the human rights situation "has achieved extraordinary progress." Ocampo made those statements after signing as a witness the 12th gentlemen's pact signed by representatives of the political parties that participate in the electoral process.

### Article Assesses Dispute With U.S. Embassy

*PA1402213294 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 11 Feb 94 p 20*

[Unattributed article: "The Embassy Does It Again"]

[Text] The U.S. Embassy has reverted to its old ways by protecting a military attache accused of murdering his Salvadoran bodyguard under circumstances that have not been clarified. With the same arrogance it has always displayed in total disregard for the Salvadoran authorities in other cases of similar violations, the U.S. Embassy quickly took the major out of the country virtually as a criminal would leave the country—by not filing the requisite immigration paperwork.

The incident showed the lack of organization characteristic of the government. The Presidency accused the Embassy of hindering the investigations conducted by the Nacional Civilian Police [PNC] and the district attorney. The PNC and district attorney supported the accusation made by the Presidency. Attracted by a sense of nationalism, the president of the Supreme Court of Justice also expressed interest in the problem. The foreign minister, however, refuted everyone when he declared that the Embassy was in constant contact with him, that the major had diplomatic immunity, and that all Embassy officials can enter and leave the country freely.

On the other hand, the Embassy praised the Salvadoran authorities, as it had done very few times before, for its investigation and cooperation. If the Embassy is offering praise while government officials are protesting, then one of the two is lying, and neither of them have enough credibility for us to take their word at face value. Both have proven to be capable of lying quite openly. The fact that the victim is Salvadoran must not make us lose our perspective. The Salvadoran officials crazed by the ruling party's false nationalism have protested the Embassy's actions, thereby demonstrating their ignorance regarding diplomatic immunity and their provincialism. If they are so interested in justice, why do they not investigate why the military attache left the country.

The Embassy should have followed established immigration procedures rather than pulling the major out of the country like a criminal. The U.S. Government can also strip the major of his immunity so that he can be tried by the Salvadoran courts, but that would be asking too much. The Embassy is accustomed to acting with this kind of arrogance and disregard. Therefore, the Salvadoran authorities should not be surprised, because they have allowed this to go on for many years. Likewise, we must not overlook the friendly "agreements" reached over the telephone by the foreign minister and the Embassy.

Still, we must also ask ourselves: Who, on his own accord, would place himself in the hands of Salvadoran justice? The Embassy knows better than anyone else how it operates; it knows the vices that plague it, and the passionate nationalism of the magistrates, judges, and lawyers. To allow a U.S. citizen to be tried in El Salvador is to abandon him to the calvary the Salvadorans, who must deal with the judicial system, must endure. Despite all this, the United States has set a bad precedent when it proved, once again, that he who is the strongest can avoid the laws and justice.

## Guatemala

### President, Officials React to UN Human Rights Report

*PA1502023594 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 12 Feb 94 p 46*

[Text] Army Commander General Ramiro de Leon Carpio yesterday announced "no reprimand is foreseen" against the corps, in reference to a report to be presented by the independent UN human rights expert in Geneva, Switzerland.

Referring to a report published yesterday by this newspaper, the president said Monica Pinto believes the Army should return to its barracks in areas where it is not needed, but a special situation should certainly prevail in the areas where its presence is really necessary.

"We accept it as an unofficial report," the president of the Republic said, adding "in fact, the Army High Command is reviewing the measures, but we believe the unofficial report has no specific charges."

Pinto's report, which will be presented to the commission in Geneva, cites the need to demilitarize Guatemalan society, to carry out a progressive reduction of its Armed Forces, to eliminate military commissioners, and to dismantle the PACs [Civilian Self-Defense Patrols], among others.

Government Minister Arnoldo Ortiz Moscoso has said the independent expert's latest report did not refer to social realities as the armed groups's responsibility within a context of national violence.

The official has admitted this and other economic realities—including poverty in rural areas and others that are detrimental to society and result in a military confrontation—were not fully discussed because the expert could not possibily spend so much time in the country for her work.

He said: In general terms, it is a frank and honest report that reviews many of the country's realities. Although she does not fail to cite problems in many paragraphs, she also admits the progress achieved; for example, civilians' participation in society and the respect for freedom of thought.

Regarding the creation of an intelligence service, he said this is nothing new, because countries such as Honduras and Costa Rica have such a unit assigned to the Presidency, not to mention the fact it was also one of the recommendations the previous expert made.

He said our country is capable of doing this and has the support of other friendly countries, adding there are certain organizations that do not operate as civilian intelligence but could do so with the proper statistics, fiscal, banking, and planning coordination.

National Police Director Mario Rene Cifuentes has referred to the issue and said the report "objectively reviews the country's human rights problems and emphasizes we should pledge to improve and surpass ourselves in certain issues."

He said the civilian intelligence issue is a state security problem rather than a police problem, but he said a recommendation to create a central unit to investigate human rights violations was already carried out, and the UN expert was notified about this via her representative.

### Government, Army Against Creating 'Truth Commission'

*PA1502023994 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2329 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Today, Monday, the Ramiro de Leon Carpio administrtaion and the Army spoke out against negotiating with URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] guerrillas on the creation of a commission to investigate human rights violations during the 33 years of armed conflict in Guatemala.

While the government considers that the time is not right to discuss forming a commission called the "Truth Commission" or "Commission of the Past" with its immediate international verification, the Army flatly rejected "any possibility" of doing so.

The "Truth Commission" and the participation of international agents are things the URNG guerrillas have demanded as part of the peace discussion with the various governments over the past decade.

Copaz [Peace Commission], a government sponsored organization, President Hector Rosada, admitted today in a meeting with foreign journalists that "there are military sectors who are unhappy" about reaching an agreement on human rights and the creation of the Truth Commission. Deputy Defense Minister General Julio Fidencio Otzoy told ACAN-EFE today, during a visit to El Salvador, that "we do not accept the so-called Truth Commission or Commission of the Past, under any circumstance. The commission is definitely bad because we are searching for peace and reconciliation, but the commission seeks to reopen wounds; it brings out the bad side of people, bad blood, which in turn causes violence and instability," stressed Otzoy.

The military leader, nevertheless, considered positive the fact that the government and the guerrillas reached a framework for agreement in January for the resumption of peace talks, possibly next month. "Our position is to immediately seek peace, but unfortunately the URNG is not interested in peace; what they are interested in is a political aspect," stated Otzoy.

According to the military leader, the URNG "has already militarily lost the war" and is now fighting "tooth and nail" to ensure political recognition so that "their effort is not described as useless and so the situation does not turn against them."

Copaz President Hector Rosada said the government "is not refusing" to discuss the creation of the commission at another time in the peace process, but stressed that the Army believes this affair "seeks to weaken or blame the Armed Forces."

The government representative denied that an Armed Forces purge or reduction will be discussed in the negotiations with the URNG "because these are military affairs; civilians have no business discussing them. These are matters that depend on geopolitical reasons."

Hector Rosada, an expert sociologist in military topics, stressed that "by dividing the Army all that will be gained is a coup d'etat," therefore, he warned that the government is not in "position to unnecessarily relinquish political opportunities" to the guerrillas. "The Truth Commission," he added, "is a verification mechanism not a human right commission, therefore we will discuss it when the time comes." Rosada insisted that the government "is not refusing" to discuss this affair.

Rosada maintains that the United Nations cannot adapt the mechanisms used in El Salvador to Guatemala because it is not the proper procedure and in addition, he stressed, "I have my reservations" about the UN Observers for El Salvador (Onusal).

To his way of thinking, the Truth Commission should be an educational and political instrument so the population can learn that "the politics of animals were used throughout 20 years" and so sectors learn not to hide in impunity. Rosada believes this commission should take the most representative cases of genocide, kidnappings, and murders to demonstrate that "what happened when the country was a mess."

Copaz has requested President Ramiro de Leon Carpio and Defense Minister Gen. Mario Enriquez not to change any of the three high-ranking officers who comprise it, given negotiations with the guerrilla are due to begin in the next few weeks with UN mediation.

### Armed Forces Members of Peace Commission To Be Replaced

*PA1402161394 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 11 Feb 94 p 2*

[Text] It was officially announced that the military members of the Peace Commission will be replaced before the government begins direct negotiations with the commanders of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) scheduled for early March.

Peace Commission President Hector Rosada Granados confirmed that Defense Minister General Mario Rene Enriquez Morales informed him of his decision to seek new mechanisms to participate in the peace process. In that sense, he said that he plans to carry out a number of military changes within the government Peace Commission. He added that a consensus is being sought to determine who will replace Generals Marco Antonio Gonzalez Taracena, Victor Manuel Ventura Arellano, and Victor Manuel Argueta Villalta.

Rosada Granados said he is getting ready for discussions on human rights with the URNG and is preparing with information from human rights representatives at the Archbishop's Office, the Presidential Commission, and Human Rights Ombudsman Jorge Mario Garcia, with whom he will arrange a meeting.

#### Former Guerrilla Commander Offers To Cooperate In Process

It was also reported that former guerrilla commander Cesar Montes or Macias on various occasions has expressed his willingness to cooperate with the peace process, particularly with the demobilization of rebel troops.

Rosada Granados said that although he has talked with the former rebel commander on several occasions, he has never expressed his desire to seek amnesty or safe-conduct that would enable him to join society. In any event, he added, if he wanted to return to legal life, Montes or Macias would be protected by the amnesty program implemented in 1986 and 1988.

### Teachers, State Employees Begin Staggered Work Stoppages

*PA1402192694 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1759 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 Feb (DPA)—The country's teachers and public employees began staggered work stoppages today to demand raises and other benefits. The length of the stoppages will increase every day leading up to a total strike next Monday, Hugo Estrada, president of the National Association of Middle School Teachers, announced.

Teachers and public employees are joining a strike initiated several days ago by public health employees, including doctors and nurses. Because of this strike, state and Guatemalan Social Security hospitals are providing emergency services only, to the detriment of patients who now must go to private medical centers.

The state employees are demanding a 40-percent pay raise, although it is highly unlikely that Ramiro De Leon Carpio's administration can agree to it. Armando Sanchez, secretary general of the National Federation of State Workers Unions, stated that public employees will stand firm in their demands, because "we know the resources do exist to grant a wage increase."

### Call for De Leon's Resignation

*PA1402230594 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2011 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—While Guatemalan Government employees today requested the resignation of President Ramiro De Leon, the government considered the possibility of imposing sanctions on striking employees for refusing to negotiate and for failing to show up for work.

Edgar Batres, National Federation of State Workers Unions leader, told ACAN-EFE following a demonstration attended by approximately 1,000 employees, that beginning today partial strikes will take place at 50 percent of government offices and that by Friday the strike will be total.

Meanwhile, Labor and Social Security Minister Anabella Morfin reiterated today that the government has not dismissed the possibility of filing a lawsuit against the employees who leave their jobs because the government will not tolerate the employees adopting illegal measures if they do not first exhaust the possibilities of dialogue. "If they are to be paid they must work," said Morfin, who has asked the labor leaders to reconsider.

Hour-long strikes have been held every day to demand a 40 percent salary increase and they have continued despite De Leon's threats of punishment. According to Batres, 180,000 state employees will not show up for work on Friday.

"We are not going to stop," said Bernardino Arriaza, a Postal Workers Union leader, who explained that the increase they are requesting is an adjustment to the inflation accumulated between 1992 and 1994. During the demonstration, labor leaders criticized President de Leon for his economic policy, which they described as neoliberal, and they demanded his resignation.

### Unidentified Individuals Blow Up Nine Utility Poles

*PA1402191794 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1823 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Unidentified individuals blew up nine utility poles in the countryside, the police reported here today.

The police report published in the local media added that the departments (provinces) of Solola in the west and El Quiche in the north were left without electricity as a result of the 13 February attack.

According to experts, the bombs were activated by remote control more than 100 meters from the site of the explosion.

There were approximately 20 bomb attacks against Congress, the electric power grid, television repeater stations, and several businesses in the latter part of January within the framework of the referendum on constitutional amendments.

### Armed Forces Deactivate Bombs in Quiche

*PA1502045594 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2152 GMT 14 Feb 93*

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The National Police have disclosed at least three explosive devices were deactivated today by members of the Guatemalan Armed Forces in the northwestern Department (province) of Quiche.

Three bombs were placed along public light posts in the Chichicastenango Municipality, 200 km northeast of Guatemala City, and deactivated by Army specialists. The police report adds Army troops are searching the area, attempting to locate the terrorists.

According to police, a knapsack with explosive devices and documents linking guerrillas to the attempts were found in the area where the explosives were discovered.

The deactivation took place after three electricity high tension wire pylons were sabotaged less than 48 hours in the same area of Quiche.

Nine electricity high tension pylons have been destroyed with dynamite charges in the western Department of Quetzaltenango, Solola, and Quiche.

The Government Ministry and Army are trying to locate those responsible for these incidents.

### Deputy Defense Minister Rules Out Army Role in Coup

*PA1502014694 Paris AFP in Spanish 2332 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Feb (AFP)—Today, Julio Otzoy, Guatemalan deputy defense minister, ruled out any possible participation of the Army in a coup d'etat. He admitted, however, that some "irresponsible people" have invited the Armed Forces to do just that. The Guatemalan Armed Forces "cannot accept" a coup, Otzoy told the press.

He participated in an event to hand out prostheses to people mutilated in the Central American war. The event was held in Santa Ana, 66 km from San Salvador, today.

Last week, the media reported rumors of coup preparations in Guatemala to remove President Ramiro de Leon Carpio, who is facing growing political opposition and labor protests.

Although Otzoy ruled out the Army's involvement in these plans, he said that "irresponsible people," who he declined to identify, have "knocked on the barracks' doors" with political motives. He added that if any officers are involved, they will be handed over to the administration of justice because "our laws clearly indicate that no military personnel can participate in politics."

"We have already experienced the consequences of a coup," the deputy minister said. He said a coup would hurt the Guatemalan people, cause chaos, and prove "inconceivable" under the present circumstances.

Guatemala's most recent institutional crisis took place last year on the occasion of then President Jorge Serrano's aborted self-inflicted coup. Serrano was later overthrown by the military.

### De Leon Not Authorized To Allow U.S. Military Exercise

*PA1502045194 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0132 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 Feb (NOTIMEX)—President Ramiro de Leon Carpio has allowed the U.S. "Fuertes Caminos" program in Guatemala without official authorization, congressmen said today. Congress president Vinicio Villar Anleu said De Leon failed to ask Congress to authorize the program. Villar said any possible penalties will be handled by the Attorney General's Office. "It is up to the Attorney General's Office to determine whether the U.S. military personnel in Guatemala are active or reservists, and whether or not De Leon should be penalized for failing to request permission from Congress," Villar Anleu said.

In "Fuertes Caminos," U.S. National Guard Reserve members participate in building highways, repairing schools and health centers, drilling wells, and providing dental services in the country's interior. The program was started last week and is slated to last until next June.

The U.S. Embassy explained that 300 men will be rotated every 15 days and that the number of U.S. military at any one time in Guatemala will never exceed 500.

Villar Anleu admitted that he attended the inauguration of "Fuertes Caminos," but he only saw engineers, medics, mechanics, and carpenters, but no soldiers.

The Constitution stipulates that Congress must approve the deployment of foreign troops in Guatemala or the transfer of foreign forces. National jurists suggested that De Leon may have violated the Constitution by not consulting with Congress or allowing legislators to ratify the execution of "Fuertes Caminos."

Legislative sources said "Fuertes Caminos" is the result of an agreement between President de Leon and the U.S. Government, therefore it is up to the president to disclose the details of the program.

This week, former Guatemalan President Francisco Villagran Kramer (1982-86) suggested to President De Leon that to avoid speculations, he disclose the contents of the "Fuertes Caminos" agreements.

## Honduras

### President Reina News Conference

*PA1102145694 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1840 GMT 10 Feb 94*

[News conference by Honduran President Carlos Roberto Reina with local and foreign reporters and Press Secretary Juan Ramon Duran as moderator at the presidency in Tegucigalpa—live]

[Text] [Duran] Thank you for accepting our invitation to speak with our president. He will issue a brief message on the topics he had discussed recently, when he had no contact with you. Then we will have a question and answer segment. Kindly identify yourselves and the media you represent, as is the custom in this conference room, whenever you ask your questions. Here is President Carlos Roberto Reina.

[Reina] Dear Juan Ramon Duran and dear friends of the press and the different media. I fulfill my word of being in constant contact with you. I have come to briefly tell you about the latest events—they are not momentous news but they reveal the progress achieved by our thesis of the moral revolution. Today I had the great satisfaction of talking with members of the Armed Forces, at the highest level, about an issue that has caused great interest in the Honduran nation: military service.

During our campaign we defined military service as a voluntary and educational service, and there is a proposal from the Armed Forces, at the highest level, for a constitutional and educational military service. I have heard an excellent exposition by Colonel [Jose Luis] Nunez Bennet and I think his conclusions convey the great historical moment which currently prevails in Honduras. In other words, this is part of what we called a consultation, which begins with a great dialogue, an open dialogue, a dialogue among equals, a fraternal dialogue, and which leads to conclusions and recommendations from either side on the way we will understand ourselves, meaning all the Hondurans.

If Honduras wins prestige, all its institutions win prestige. If Honduras' image deteriorates, all its institutions are harmed; it is that simple, and if we improve it, we all improve. I think one of the conclusions that were reached is excellent: that the forceful recruitment used by the Armed Forces until April 1993 was negative and harmful for the image of the armed institution. I think this is a classy act that reflects high awareness.

What young men and their mothers, fathers, brothers, and sisters thought about the way in which people were taken away, in a somewhat unusual manner, to render military service was detrimental to the Armed Forces' prestige. We said this during our campaign and they fully recognize it.

I also recognize the fact there has been no political will to organize institutions in Honduras because their organization entails starting a different period in the country's history. That is why I believe this consultation is part of what we have called the moral revolution, meaning a dialogue that will lead us to a consensus and will allow us to advance on the road toward the human development we have proposed. The new Armed Forces' role in times of peace. We have to consult on that; we have to discuss that; we have to review the theory of the Honduran people's safety.

Regarding problems with the police, there will be no discrepancy about creating a technical, scientific police that guarantees rights and procedures to find the truth, instead of the procedures that resulted in so much negative publicity about Honduras. The Armed Forces say its members are aware that mistakes were made in the past and this discouraged the citizens from fulfilling their patriotic duty of rendering military service. Those are beautiful words stated by the corps, which should bring prestige to Honduras by fulfilling its constitutional duties.

One of the recommendations is that the political will be expressed. I have already expressed the political will in my status as president of the Republic in order to establish an Army for peace, development, and the well-being of our people.

I think it is an excellent recommendation that the Education Ministry provide its full support to the Armed Forces to provide education there too. I reiterate their recommendations, which I have praised very much. That moral and civic education be included in the study plans and programs for elementary and secondary schools. These classes were eliminated as a result of suggestions from abroad, but today all Hondurans without exception realize that this hurts the solidarity of the national identity. Furthermore, that discipline be instilled in citizens at schools at all levels because discipline is a basic factor for the development of the society.

With this, and proposing to them that we form a joint commission of the Armed Forces and the government of the Republic to discuss compulsory military service, I have received their proposal and will appoint a commission to begin discussing the compulsory military service, in a conscious manner and with full competence. This is one of the points that I wanted to mention to you.

There are other points that have been mentioned, which are still being studied, in regard to the so-called Trifinio

Project which is located near Ocotepeque, the Armed Forces Budget, the reorganization of the Armed Forces, and the police.

I am, thus, very satisfied with the dialogue we have held and I am convinced that we are on the right path to reaching a concerted agreement that will produce national theses that we will all defend.

I am at your disposal for any question or any concern.

If there is no air conditioning, it is the fault of KNEE [National Enterprise for Electric Power] and not of the presidency. [Laughter] But, we will try to provide you with all the comforts, as I told you before.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] however, there is something that currently concerns the Honduran people in the economic field.

There is an IMF mission in Honduras and it logically causes concern among the Honduran people. Could you tell us anything about the topics that have been discussed with the mission? And, is it true that the Honduran Government has already agreed to increase the electricity rates, tolls, and other services? Is there any truth in the rumors circulating this morning?

[Reina] The arrival of the IMF representatives must be taken as it is, and not as a ghost that comes to threaten or impose on us. We are a sovereign country, but 40 percent of our budget is dedicated to paying the foreign debt—immense amounts of money that disappeared during very regrettable periods in our history.

I believe this is the first discussion, there is still no letter of intent. But, what I do guarantee to the Honduran people and to the majorities of this people, is that we will not accept, under any circumstance, that sales taxes be increased because those deeply hurt the poor majorities of Honduras. Other things are being discussed, other possibilities, but I have still not received the report from the economic cabinet.

I met with them this morning, but to discuss a topic that I find to be passionate: solidarity—this is a contribution from Mexico. To implement what in that country has been called the Solidarity [Program]. What does it consist of? That the people cooperate for their own benefit, for their own well-being.

Honduran boards of trustees are organizations that have not functioned too well. They become sectarian, fight each other, neutralize each other. We have to have neighborhood residents improve their own living conditions with government and international aid. This approach has yielded good results in Mexico. I studied it this morning with the Economic Cabinet and feel very optimistic about it.

The fare issue has not yet been decided. The Honduran poor majorities should not be taxed. The possibility of taxing either the poor or other social sectors is what is being debated. The final decision, however, will be made by the Honduran Government. The IMF, as an international organization, is not as tough as before. I can say this because I have talked with them in Washington and Honduras. Their purpose is similar to ours: to favor the majority of the people. Together, we will be able to face the foreign debt without hurting the Honduran people.

[Reporter] The people want to know whether taxes will be increased and when a decision will be made regarding raising electricity rates and those of other public services.

[Reina] The matter is under discussion, and there will soon be a solution, and this government's philosophy is to avoid hurting the poor majority of Honduras. I think this is a very clear and truthful idea.

[Reporter] A list of three candidates for Social Security Fund director has been presented to you. It has been reported that you turned down this first list. What can you tell us about this?

[Reina] I tell you frankly, Walter, such a list has not been presented to me, although I have been told it would be brought to me. When it is indeed sent to me, I will study it and appoint someone who can understand the true nature of social security. I will appoint the most capable person. For the time being, we have designated Dr. Ogden Rodriguez in the position. It was said a number of times that he had been discriminated against, that he was unpopular, things like that. It is impossible for all capable men to be appointed. Nevertheless, we will gradually correct the situation. Early in March, I will present a report to the Honduran people. It is necessary that I sum up thoroughly the condition of the country when I receive it. This will be done early in March. Many things will be clarified, things that have been touched upon only slightly in an effort to keep in touch with you journalists constantly.

[Reporter] Much was said about privatization during the previous administration. This is my first question. Will you privatize the National Enterprise for Electric Power and Hondutel [Honduran Telecommunications Enterprise]? My second question is this: The National Party has already accused your administration of nepotism. Does nepotism exist here? How will you handle the pressure from liberal activists regarding job applications?

[Reina] I will answer your questions with pleasure, Ms. Diaz. First of all, privatization as such is neither good nor bad. It depends on what is privatized and how it is done. A privatization process that is not clear, that is not absolutely honest, ends up being a disaster, because it would turn out to be a huge swindle against our people. The sale of assets worth many millions [currency not specified] would be mishandled, and the people would pay the consequences. If we were to privatize, we would do so under local and foreign audits to ensure absolute purity and to the defend the interest of the workers of the companies involved. Two factors would have to be considered: absolute honesty and respect for the rights of those who work in the enterprises.

But those are issues that will be discussed in the future. What are we going to do if half of the Honduran budget is destined to pay a debt and the other half to pay employees? It is a country that cannot continue to function that way. We must defend our stability and identity with our assets. This is one of the areas that must be tackled.

Nepotism is a vice of politics. But what can I do if I have many distant relatives who worked hard during the campaign. Am I going to stigmatize them or deprive them of some rights? The fact that Jorge Arturo Reina, my brother, could become and became Congress vice president has nothing to do with Carlos Roberto Reina. He has his own image, his own leadership. That cannot be considered nepotism. Nepotism is when one person appoints his relatives to exclude those persons with merits.

Some people said a relative of mine—a very distant relative I should note—would be education minister. However, some people said he was a very close relative of mine. I am not going to commit those mistakes. However, I am not going to deprive someone who has worked and has merit and solvency to be a soldier of the moral revolution of the right to a position because they [words indistinct] I am not going to deprive that person of that right.

Regarding influence peddling, I call on my fellow party members.... [pauses] How long did I wait to get to this post? Half a century. Can't they wait a few days? They said all government appointments have been made. I have just appointed the ministers. Other people are telling party members they have been left out. They say: Do you see how they used you? They just used you to get there. And that person becomes nervous. I ask you for patience. I am asking for nothing I did not have. I was very patient in putting up with injustices, humiliations, [word indistinct] I ask you to wait for some time while we solve the problems of giving some compensation to Liberal Party of Honduras [PLH] members who were dismissed from the government by the previous administration for their political party affiliation. I think this is logical.

The government must not be sectarian. It must be for all Hondurans who will choose the best persons for public office.

[Villanueva] Armando Villanueva of EL HERALDO. [Words indistinct] not to approve new direct taxes against the people. But what will happen with indirect taxes? For instance, it has been said a new toll collection system will be implemented and also [words indistinct]. In the end, industrialists and businessmen pass these increases on to consumers and it is ultimately the people who suffer the consequences.

On the other hand, I would like to know if your government will reactivate this commission to oversee [words indistinct] last administration, whatever it's called, to oversee public officials?

[Reina] A highway toll system operates in many countries. It is in place in San Pedro Sula and there is no problem. The thing is that people must have alternatives. If you want to travel on a paved road, then pay for it. If you don't want to pay, then use the dirt road. This gives people an alternative and is in place in many countries of the world. We all pay it because no one [words indistinct] because he has to pay one lempira.

Regarding the other issue, the customs value factor is another topic currently being discussed. But if we permit taxes to be passed on to the poor, we would not be doing anything. We are working to prevent that from happening. This would permit us to really protect the poor majorities of this country.

Regarding fares, this is a very broad issue. I ask you [words indistinct] is it fair for a person who lives in Las Lomas del Guifarro neighborhood to pay the same as someone who lives in Alemania neighborhood? There was a time when both the multimillionaire and worker paid 12 lempiras to the municipality. Is this fair? This is what we are discussing. The same holds true for water and electricity service. These are issues that are still under discussion, which involve the social justice we have always talked about.

The easier thing to do would be to increase prices of basic market basket products and medicines for the defenseless. But we are not going to do that.

[Words indistinct] this and many other intervention commissions so that they find out what is happening or happened in such state institutions as Cohdefor [Honduran Forest Development Corporation], Conadi [National Investment Corporation], and Banasupro [National Supply Agency for Basic Products]. In an article for EL HERALDO, I called what happened in the said companies the blank books. The people should know what happened in each of these institutions.

[Boza] Mr. President, Ramuel [name indistinct] Boza of Radio Tegucigalpa. I want to know if you [words indistinct] governments have had a difficult situation regarding the increase in urban transportation fares, which have been maintained. Will you allow an increase in transportation fares that will affect the Honduran people, especially in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula?

On the other hand, pharmacists have said they have no alternative but to increase the price of medicine because each day the price of the dollar continues to increase with regard to the lempira. These are my two questions, Mr. President.

[Reina] Both questions concern the entire population. I will never authorize an increase in the price of medicines or transportation fares, because that can topple a government. That is what made the Venezuelan people explode, when new taxes were implemented. The challenge we have ahead of us is finding ways to increase our revenues quickly without affecting the majority; that is what we are doing. We are intensively seeking those

measures, which the economic cabinet will announce at a news conference in due time.

[Unidentified reporter] Dr. Reina, public employees are afraid of the possibility of mass dismissals. A few minutes ago, you said that the activists of the PLH must be patient. In this regard, how will your government fill some vacancies without engaging in the famous mass dismissals, on one hand? On the other hand, how far will your government go in the investigation of some transactions made in the past, one of them called the big car [el carrazo] scandal, so that those responsible will be punished and do not escape the arm of the law, as is customary?

[Reina] We are going to appoint you to the commission that will investigate this affair. [laughter] We have already appointed a commission that will investigate those cases so that those who looted this country are punished. This is a firm decision by our government.

The other thing is a problem. Can we continue to have sinecures in many offices, where 50 percent of the employees don't do anything because they got their jobs thanks to past administrations? We must review this situation and pay them compensation, but there is no money. We are seeking a solution to this situation. We must get the money and keep the employees. We will not fire anyone out of sectarianism. Sectarianism is a vice, it is a disease. A good employee must not be dismissed. How much did the state pay to train that employee? But if he is a sinecure and this phenomenon is widespread, how are we going to advance with such heavy bureaucratic burdens.

To me, the most appropriate thing is to evaluate the personnel, respect the abilities of public employees, and apply justice at the bureaucratic level. If someone was dismissed as a result of sectarianism by previous administrations, it is necessary to reinstate that person, provided that he fulfills the requirements of the post.

With respect to the big car incident, it is already being investigated. You have already heard statements by the deputy finance minister and he is very committed to solving this issue.

[Reporter] In reference to decisions involving the selective military service which I believe will bring relief to our youth, will there be a government commission? What are your intentions in this respect? [Passage indistinct] Do you have any names?

[Reina] I still do not have any names. We first have to consult with some of the candidates to see if they agree since they might have to resign afterwards due to lack of time. However, I believe that we must meet with them sometime between today and tomorrow. We will announce the decision afterwards. I thank you for being here today and I am at your disposal.

## Compulsory Service To Continue Despite Reina's Pledge

*PA1502020194 Paris AFP in Spanish 1917 GMT 12 Feb 94*

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 12 Feb (AFP)—Local media reported on Saturday that the military service will still be compulsory in Honduras despite pledges by the recently sworn-in Carlos Roberto Reina administration, which said military service would become "voluntary and educational." Presidential designate (vice president) Walter Lopez, a former general, said in statements to the newspaper LA TRIBUNA: "There will be no exceptions because it will be compulsory."

On Thursday, the Armed Forces announced a mixed commission will be created with the government to propose law reforms which allow the implementation of "a constitutional and educational military service." The announcement was made by Armed Forces Chief General Luis Alonso Discua following a meeting with Reina.

Reina, who replaced former President Rafael Leonardo Callejas on 27 January, promised "a military service that was educational" and voluntary, instead of the habitual "hunt" conducted in public places for poor, young men who are taken to the Army barracks. Nevertheless, the new president apparently failed to obtain the powerful Honduran military forces' support.

Bertha Oliva, coordinator of a movement against conscription, said Reina's promise "is another lie from politicians who say one thing during their political campaign but do another once they achieve power." The leader said that members of her committee will organize a hunger strike in front of where the mixed commission will meet to discuss the alleged reforms to the military service law.

## IMF Pressures New Government to Increase Revenues

*PA1202050094 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 10 Feb 94 p 2*

[Text] Last night, the IMF exerted pressure on the new government to eliminate some subsidies, including transportation subsidies, and it also demanded the establishment of tolls and an increase in electricity and water rates. The Economic Cabinet met with IMF representatives last night at the Central Bank of Honduras offices to compare figures, in what would be a preamble to the letter of intent that will be signed in March.

On 7 February, the Economic Cabinet announced it would immediately eliminate all investment, transfer, and current expenses to reduce the fiscal deficit.

IMF representatives argue, however, this is not enough and that it is necessary, among other measures, to eliminate transportation and kerosene subsidies which the government is absorbing.

The IMF also says tolls should be permanently established to collect revenues, and the National Enterprise for Electric Power (ENEE) and the National Autonomous Water and Sewage Service (SANAA) should increase their rates.

In this give and take situation, the government has said it would rather seek other revenue sources than to eliminate transportation subsidies because the people would suffer the most by having to pay more than one lempira in transportation fares if these demands were met.

Certain businessmen and economists also believe it is not appropriate to increase public service rates such as electricity, first of all because ENEE does not even have the capacity to meet current energy demands. In fact, electricity is rationed because of the very low water levels at its main source of energy, the "Francisco Morazan" or "El Cajon" Hydroelectric Project.

Regarding the international credit organization's demands, perhaps the only feasible one right now is that of establishing tolls.

### Foreign Minister on UN Security Council Membership

*PA1502033894 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 11 Feb 94 p 8*

[Text] Foreign Minister Ernesto Paz Aguilar said yesterday the Foreign Ministry's top priority is obtaining a Honduran nonpermanent membership on the UN Security Council.

"We have been working on this for a long time. It takes several years to work on such a candidacy. Honduras is going to obtain that post at a world level for the first time," he said. He said the election will take place at the next UN General Assembly scheduled for September in New York. We are now trying to garner our votes, he said. There are more than 160 states in the United Nations, and therefore we have to hold good negotiations with friendly countries.

Concerning the election of the next OAS secretary general, he said Honduras will keep its promise to support Costa Rica in the first round, and "there will be an ample debate among the Latin American countries for the second round."

Regarding the candidacy of Colombian President Cesar Gaviria for that post, the Honduran foreign minister said there are different opinions as to the person who should direct the Inter-American organization.

He said it is very important for Honduras to be a member of the Security Council, because this would practically entail making decisions on world issues. There are permanent and nonpermanent members on the Security Council. The great powers are the permanent members, the others the developing nations.

"For the first time, there is going to be a Honduran representative on the Security Council. The only countries that have had this privilege in the past are Panama, during the government of Omar Torrijos, and Nicaragua, during the time of the revolution," he said. The foreign minister said, however, no decision has been reached yet on the candidate.

## Nicaragua

### Rebels Ready To Begin Talks 'Immediately'

*PA1402180494 Paris AFP in Spanish 1515 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] Santa Elena, 14 Feb (AFP)—Visibly exhausted by the Army's persecution and "sick and tired of war," Nicaragua's main rebel group announced today that it is willing to begin disarmament talks immediately and without political conditions.

The leaders of the 3-80 Northern Front (FN 3-80) proposed a meeting to be held today, Monday, with a peace commission that would be made up of representatives of the church and the International Commission of Support and Verification of the OAS. Recontra leader Elvin Talavera, alias "Chacalin," told the press that the rebels had accepted a peace proposal by the church and writer Pantonio Cuadra and that they are willing to negotiate on the basis of that document.

The plan, disclosed more than a week ago, suggests the demobilization of the so-called "recontras" but does not mention any of the political demands the recontras have made since they took up their weapons against the government.

The unconventional forces are respecting the cease-fire they unilaterally declared 10 days ago, even though on Friday a group killed two soldiers and injured three others when they ambushed a military vehicle in Buena Vista, 8 km from a big military base. The Army has also refrained from conducting military operations in the northern area of the country and has announced that they do not wish to hinder the efforts being made toward disarmament. Therefore, they will not take reprisals for the attack.

Chacalin, whom the Army reported as having been killed a week ago, said that the group is willing to talk but that the presence of the soldiers in that area "could hinder" the process.

To date, the recontras have not mentioned any political demands in exchange for disarming and have only asked that their safety be ensured. A few months ago, the rebels demanded the resignation of President Violeta Chamorro and Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo and the removal Humberto Ortega, commander in chief of the Sandinist People's Army.

Regarding their former demands, Chacalin said that "we are thinking about the upcoming elections (in 1996); we

must head for a civic struggle." Chacalin hinted that there is a possibility that the group will join the recently formed Nicaraguan Resistance Party (PRN). The PRN is formed by former contras who, several years ago, chose the civic way of struggle.

Another FN 3-80 leader known by his alias, "Martin Negro," told AFP that they will ask the government to establish new safety zones to which the Army will not have access. If the government agrees to these demands, "the meetings will continue" to discuss other points in the proposal that includes the creation of another peace commission, Martin Negro said.

### 'Tense Calm' on Eve of Talks

*PA1502000894 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] Managua—Tense calm prevails in northern Nicaragua. Talks to disarm the Nicaraguan recontras of the so-called Northern Front 3-80, led by Jose Angel Talavera, a.k.a. Chacal, begin today. Local media sources report that a peace commission composed of Catholic Church and CIAV [International Commission for Support and Verification]-OAS delegates have already made contact with recontra leaders to establish the necessary conditions for the negotiations. The people are afraid rifles will be heard again given the recontras' mistrust for the military presence.

On Sunday, Monsignor Eddy Montenegro, vicar of the Managua Archdiocese, advocated the rapid resolution of the situation in the country's north. 'We hope the rifles will remain silent and that the pacification process will move forward so Nicaragua can tread the path of balance, he said during his homily at the Managua Cathedral.

The disarmament talks will be held at El Naranjo, Nueva Segovia Department, close to the Honduran border. Despite the cease-fire announced separately on Thursday by the Sandinist People's Army staff and rebel leaders, the presence of government troops increased over the weekend, a CIAV-OAS official reported.

Sergio Caramana, CIAV-OAS coordinator general, warned that the peace commission's mediation might fail if the Army's presence near the town where the talks with the recontras will be held is maintained. A military source, however, denied that the Army is hampering the Catholic Church and CIAV-OAS mediation. We remain in our positions and maintain the cease-fire to facilitate the disarming, the source added.

The suspension of Army offensive operations only covers the Nueva Segovia Department, where the Northern Front 3-80, made up of some 400 rearmed men, is stationed. The Army source said the operation continues in the rest of the country, but declined to report on any new clashes. In exchange for disarming, the recontras operating in the country's north demand that the government of Violeta Chamorro implement social programs for Nueva Segovia Department peasants and protection for the would-be demobilized.

## Brazil

### Complexity of Nuclear Accord Approval Viewed

*PY1102203394 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 Feb 94 Section 1 p 3*

[Article by Senator Dirceu Carneiro, Brazilian Social Democracy Party-Santa Catarina State, coordinator of the nuclear safeguards bill and second vice president of the Budget Committee]

[Text] The Executive Branch's position regarding nuclear safeguards has been causing controversy in the national media, which has been unable, so far, to supply society with useful and clarifying information on the issue. The nuclear safeguards are being examined by the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, but it is a complex matter and demands that the Foreign Ministry hold exhaustive negotiations at the international level.

The consequences of signing this sort of treaty are, theoretically, permanent in the history of a country. Before signing it, therefore, society must meditate and debate the issue and the government must disseminate information on it. In such cases, the Legislative Branch digests all the information and assigns to it the period of political and social time required to allow all areas of society to give their opinion on the issue. It is legitimate that the Legislative Branch does so: It is its right and duty.

Brazil did not sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (TNP), and will not do it in the future either, considering it discriminatory and unfair. The Brazilian Constitution, however, forbids the construction of atomic bombs, and I believe Brazil is the only country to have done so. Nonetheless, the international community conveniently included Brazil in the group of countries that did not sign the TNP because they do not have the bomb, side by side with India, Pakistan, and Israel. It thus punished the country and made it difficult for us to have access to sensitive technologies.

To overcome this discrimination, Brazil and Argentina created the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control (ABACC), which is a regional agency similar to the EC's Euraton. The establishment of ABACC and the signature of the Quadripartite Accord by Brazil, Argentina, ABACC, and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reduced foreign pressure on Brazil and allowed it to join the international community.

To comply with these agreements, we must offer guarantees to the safeguards but we also can prevent foreign organizations, which comprise more than 85 countries and have differing interests, from using the "special surveys" argument and harming our country. These agreements may be used as tools to exert political pressure over matters absolutely unrelated to nuclear energy. This is what we want to prevent by better analyzing the text of the safeguards agreement.

So far, we have corrected certain vague parts of the text of the Supplement Adjustments to the Quadripartite Accord on control of nuclear energy use. All the Senate has to do now is approve the agreement, and it probably will do it without difficulties.

Anyway, the world already expected Brazil to adopt the safeguards. This is why I deem absurd the news reported by the press, which I believe to be fake news proposed by a lobby [preceding word in English], that Germany plans to break the nuclear agreement signed with Brazil and oppose our participation in the UN Security Council, unless we approve the Quadripartite Accord and the Tlatelolco Treaty.

Our agreement with the Germans, which is independent, already contemplates safeguards with Germany. The Germans have no relation whatsoever with the Tlatelolco Treaty, which is a regional agreement. The Quadripartite Accord, however, is a claim by the entire developed world that, through the news of an alleged threat by the Germans, seems to be interested in exerting pressure on Brazil to transform it into a captive market.

Nowadays, there is a basic problem that must be solved before the safeguards are voted on. Otherwise, we may take from Brazil its right to sovereignty. We must eliminate an amendment to the Tlatelolco Treaty that forbids the construction and use of atomic weapons in Latin America because it clashes with one of the objectives Brazil sought to maintain in the text of the Quadripartite Accord, i.e., the prohibition on conducting special surveys based on charges made in the national territory. The amendment that must be eliminated allows this sort of survey.

Through this amendment, the IAEA experts could come to Brazil to survey any facility, reported or not to IAEA, and take possession of industrial information that could be used to stop our development. Learning about progress in a specific research project, the developed countries could harm Brazil by failing to transfer technology to us that would allow us to advance in that research and begin manufacturing the same products they do. As a result of commercial interests and other sorts of interests, these countries would struggle to maintain international preservation of their products.

These concerns, which are known to all Brazilians, have been guiding the Brazilian Foreign Affairs Committee's analysis of the issue.

The first positive result of this position was Brazil's obtaining the approval of the Supplemental Adjustments even before ratification of the quadripartite agreement. This gave acknowledged, obvious benefits to Brazil.

Other results were the formal statements by the IAEA and the Organization to Ban Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (OPANAL), confirming that the supplemental adjustments of the quadripartite agreement apply to the Tlatelolco Treaty. The text of the Tlatelolco Treaty, unlike that of the quadripartite agreement, permits

inspections in any country under suspicion. After the Persian Gulf war, this instrument became a dangerous tool used by the IAEA, especially for inspections prompted by the pressing of charges, a method that is unacceptable to Brazil.

The responsibility of Congress is to obtain the best for Brazil. Despite the desires of some government officials, who are efficiently lobbying through the press, we will not deliberate before the matter is fully clarified. Ratifying the treaty—which has already been signed—one week earlier or one week later will make no difference. Consequently, the Brazilian position has been clearly outlined to the international community; it is a fact. Within this context, ratifying and adjusting are mere details.

### Amorim, German Source Welcome Nuclear Safeguards Approval

*PY1202022994 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 10 Feb 94 p 6*

[Article by Maria Helena Tachinardi in Brasilia]

[Text] Through a symbolic vote, the Brazilian Senate on 9 February approved the quadripartite agreement on comprehensive nuclear safeguards signed in December 1991 by Brazil, Argentina, the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control (ABACC), and the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The treaty's approval has put an end to rising speculation in the international community about Brazil's real commitment to using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in light of the fact that the bill was only approved after difficult discussions took place in both the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The German Government has conveyed satisfaction over the Senate's endorsement of the special inspections to be conducted by the IAEA, which will control the movement of nuclear materials to and from Brazilian facilities. In remarks to GAZETA MERCANTIL, a German Embassy source said: "It is a positive step, but we are still awaiting the approval of the amendments to the Tlatelolco Treaty on nuclear nonproliferation in Latin America and the Caribbean." The Tlatelolco Treaty will be discussed after the Carnival celebrations. The source added: The nuclear issue will no longer be a problem for the visit Foreign Minister Celso Amorim is scheduled to make to Germany on 23 February.

In recent months, Germany has expressed great interest in the approval of the nuclear agreements by the Brazilian Congress because a German law will only authorize international cooperation in sensitive technology with countries that are signatories of comprehensive safeguards agreements with the IAEA. The deadline for the recipient country to meet this requirement expires late next year.

Foreign Minister Amorim also expressed satisfaction with the Senate vote that, in his opinion, clears the way for developed countries to provide technological cooperation to Brazil.

Amorim also noted that the quadripartite agreement is more important than the Tlatelolco amendments—which have yet to be approved—for the international community because the Tlatelolco Treaty, which bans nuclear weapons in Latin America, is applicable only to the region. Both Amorim and the German Embassy have expressed confidence that the Tlatelolco amendments will be approved in the next few weeks.

Argentina, which is Brazil's partner in peaceful nuclear projects because they both set up ABACC, also has welcomed the agreement's approval. A Buenos Aires source said: "The image of the two countries, particularly on the nuclear issue, will improve." The Argentine Congress already had approved both the quadripartite agreement and the Tlatelolco amendments some time ago.

### Federal Deputy Escapes Bomb Attack Unharmed

*PY1202000394 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Feb 94 Section 1 p 10*

[Text] The PP [Popular Party] federal deputy for Sao Paulo, Alberto Haddad, escaped a bomb attack in his political office in Pinheiros (western Sao Paulo). This information had been kept secret since 2 February, when the PM [Military Police] bomb squad was called. There are no clues on who planted the bomb. "I have suspicions about my enemies within the party," Haddad said.

### Colombians Accused of Smuggling Fish to U.S.

*PY1202155594 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Feb 94 Section 3 p 4*

[Article by Andre Lozano from Manaus Bureau]

[Text] The Coordinating Board of Brazilian Amazon Region Indian Organizations (Coiab) and the Ibama [Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources] have accused Colombians of fostering the smuggling of fish out of the Amazon region into the United States. Both agencies estimate that returns on the illegal business with alevins (newly-hatched fish) amount to $2.4 million per week.

The Pastoral for Indigenous Communities of the Upper Solimoes contends that former members of the gang of Colombian drug kingpin Pablo Escobar, who died recently, might be members of the band of fish smugglers.

According to Father Joseney Lira, the Colombians leave their country through the city of Leticia, enter Brazil through Tabatinga, and go to the cities of Atalaia do Norte and Benjamin Constant, Amazonas State, using the Javari River. Lira said: "Most smuggling occurs in these two municipal districts. The Colombians purchase alevins at puny prices and resell them for 600 real cruzeiros each."

The smuggled fish reportedly enter Colombia through Leticia, are flown by airplane to Bogota, and then to Miami (United States of America). Amazonas PF [federal police] Superintendent Mauro Sposito said the smuggled fish are also used to camouflage cocaine shipments from Leticia to the United States.

## Candidate Lula Disagrees With PT Government Program

*PY1202010894 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Feb 94 Section 1 p 10*

[Article by Carlos Eduardo Alves]

[Text] Luiz Inacio Lula Silva did not like the draft government program that he asked the PT [Workers Party] to design. He decided to react against some of the topics defined by the party, and will designate Sao Paulo federal Deputy Aloizio Mercadante to introduce the changes he considers essential in the text. The orthodox majority ruling the party has been hostile to Mercadante.

For example, Lula does not agree with a moratorium being included in the party program, not even as a possibility. He believes a moratorium is a unilateral measure. He advocates "political renegotiation" with the governments of creditor countries. If the principle of "default" is admitted in an official document of his candidacy, Lula says, it will be ridiculous to advocate renegotiation.

Lula also disagrees with the emphasis the preliminary document attached to privatization. First, because he fears that it will be almost impossible to reverse some of the privatizations, something that almost all PT groups have demanded. Second, because he believes the so-called "strategic areas" in which the party will not agree to private control will be questioned by the revisionist Congress, which will be an appropriate forum for maintaining, for example, the petroleum and telecommunications monopolies.

Lula also disliked the chapter dealing with land reform. He wants a section on a farm policy especially favoring the owners of small farms. Lula also disagreed with the emphasis the party attached to the debates on the military. While he does not want to overemphasize the importance of the military in the document, the party is turning the subject into a central issue of the debates.

Another restriction that Lula marked on the draft program is the inclusion, even if "shameful," of socialist prospects. Lula does not want references to socialism in the text because he believes the program cannot be a strictly partisan document, because this will make it impossible for the party to make alliances.

Lula and Mercadante held a long phone talk on 9 February, and they had a meeting scheduled for the evening. In the morning, Lula told the deputy that the public considered him his main economic adviser, and that it was time for Mercadante to participate in the internal debate.

Mercadante said he will participate in the debates on the program. He will outline a critical view of what has been done so far. "The program lacks targets, objectives, and quantification," he said.

The deputy's opinion on the functioning of Lula's campaign is shared by a great majority of those close to Lula. "Wherever Lula goes, things work. The part that depends on the party is not operating properly," he said. Mercadante will attend a PT executive board meeting on 17 February, at which attempts will be made to introduce changes into the program.

PT Vice President Rui Falcao, who leads the faction that opposes Mercadante within the PT, has labelled his rival's joining the debates as "positive."

## Attorney General Views Constitution Revision Process

*PY1202192794 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Feb 94 p A6*

[Interview with Attorney General Aristides Junqueira by Joyce Russi and Bartolomeu Rodrigues in Brasilia on 10 February]

[Text] Brasilia—Attorney General Aristides Junqueira on 10 February asserted that the only way to prevent the promulgation of the Social Emergency Fund (FSE) from being reviewed by the Federal Supreme Court (STF) is by concluding the constitutional revision work as scheduled on 15 March. Junqueira believes that the possibility of extending the deadline established by Congress' internal regulations—the party leaders already are negotiating to extend the deadline until 30 April—does not allow the promulgation of amendments in stages as they are approved, a process known as "salami amendments" [promulgating them slice by slice], because otherwise there would be a risk of turning the constitutional revision into an endless process. This is why the attorney general wants to file a case before the Federal Supreme Court to prevent the promulgation of amendments by stages, although he is sure that the political parties that oppose the constitutional revision will do so before him.

[O ESTADO] Couldn't your intention to resort to the Federal Supreme Court if the Social Emergency Fund is promulgated create a new crisis among the government branches?

[Junqueira] That is exactly my concern. Article 3 of the Temporary Dispositions of the Constitution allows a constitutional revision five years after its proclamation. The criterion in that article are flexible and allow changes in a much easier way than what is established in the text of the Constitution. It establishes that the amendments must be approved by three-fifths of the congressmen in a simultaneous voting session in the two

chambers and in two voting rounds. According to Article 3, all the constitutional amendments must be promulgated at the same time. Thus, we have two alternatives: either to close the constitutional revision process once an amendment is proclaimed, or to strictly comply with the period of time established to finish the work [to proclaim all the amendments together]. If the deadline is extended, the revision will run the risk of lasting indefinitely.

[O ESTADO] Even if Congress' internal regulations allow the promulgation of amendments as they are approved?

[Junqueira] That is not appropriate based on the interpretation of Article 3 of the Transitory Dispositions and the text of the Constitution itself. However, if the constitutional revision ends on the established date, the problem would be smaller because then the promulgation of amendments by parts would be irrelevant. We need to know the size of the salami.

[O ESTADO] And if the work was extended a short period of time?

[Junqueira] An extension is not possible. The two things do not combine with each other.

[O ESTADO] Isn't this an internal congressional problem?

[Junqueira] No, it is a constitutional problem that pertains to the Federal Supreme Court.

[O ESTADO] Then you will not think twice about filing a case before the Federal Supreme Court if the Social Emergency Fund is promulgated?

[Junqueira] If any deputy decides to file a case before the Federal Supreme Court after an amendment is promulgated, the court will have to make a decision. This is a serious matter that deserves juridical analysis. Whoever wishes to object to the constitutional revision through an injunction will have considerable arguments to do so.

[O ESTADO] Would you do that?

[Junqueira] If a second amendment is promulgated, I understand that the constitutional revision will have ended with the promulgation of the first one.

[O ESTADO] Is this a threat to the constitutional revision?

[Junqueira] I am not threatening but calling attention to a problem that may be created.

[O ESTADO] Are you against the constitutional revision right now?

[Junqueira] It is not my business to give an opinion about the constitutional revision.

[O ESTADO] Don't the latest scandals justify a constitutional revision to give the judicial branch more efficient instruments with which to combat corruption?

[Junqueira] Will they really be revised?

[O ESTADO] Why wouldn't they?

[Junqueira] Because they affect the congressmen themselves.

[O ESTADO] Would Congress corporatism reach that point?

[Junqueira] I do not know. I hope not. My concern is that we are always worried with amending the Constitution rather than complying with it. That is not the way I understand the Constitution. I understand it as something that limits the actions of government. If those limits did not exist or were amended by any absolute majority with the easiness of this revision, I do not think our future will be too good.

[O ESTADO] Are you in favor of external control of the Judicial Branch?

[Junqueira] Yes, as long as it does not interfere with the conscience of the judges. I think a control would be very healthy in the disciplinary field. The judicial branch's self-control has been very inefficient to correct the mistakes or defects of some judges. I even dare to imagine a mutual control among the magistrates, the Attorney General's Office, and the Brazilian Attorney's Association. Each one could control each other through mechanisms that would allow bad judges or bad prosecutors or bad lawyers to be fired.

## Colombia

### Visiting Peruvian President Denies Negotiations With Shining Path

*PA1502025094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2054 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Excerpts] Santa Fe de Bogota, 14 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, who arrived in Colombia today, denied having conducted any negotiations whatsoever with the Shining Path, and he reiterated he will continue to implement harsh measures against that organization.

"We have made no contact with the terrorist leaders who are free," Fujimori said, denying Lima newspaper reports stating the government and Shining Path are holding meetings aimed at initiating a dialogue.

During a news conference, the Peruvian president added: "We have established contact via our intelligence services to capture their leaders but not to establish communication, let alone establish talks."

"The policy of my government is to capture the terrorists or confront and annihilate them," said the Peruvian head of state.

Fujimori warned: "I will not allow terrorists to continue perpetrating so many murders, and that is why we have adopted adequate measures, some of them harsh but effective."

According to official figures, the Maoist organization has caused the death of 25,000 Peruvians. [passage omitted]

President Fujimori reiterated his support for the candidacy of his host to the post of OAS secretary general. [passage omitted]

### Defends Antiterrorist Measures

*PA1502031094 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2055 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 14 Feb (DPA)—Today in Santa Fe de Bogota at the start of a three-day official visit to Colombia, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori defended his government's measures to fight the "Shining Path" terrorist group. Fujimori, in brief statements to the press, said his country could no longer tolerate attacks by the fundamentalist Maoist group; therefore he implemented severe measures, like the so-called "self-coup" in April 1992, when he dissolved Congress and assumed extraordinary powers.

"What country in the world would accept 25,000 deaths (number of victims caused by political violence in Peru since 1980)? No developed country would have allowed this. That is why we took the appropriate measures; some of them were tough, but effective," the president said.

The Peruvian president, who arrived in Santa Fe de Bogota this morning and met at noon with his Colombian colleague Cesar Gaviria, said his visit shows the good relations between the two countries.

According to Narino House sources, Gaviria and Fujimori discussed basic topics like the fight against the drug-trafficking mafia and communist guerrilla groups, as well as the results of the Peruvian-Colombian Joint Commission to protect the Amazon jungle at their first meeting.

After speaking with Gaviria, Fujimori met for a few minutes with Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin and laid a wreath at the statue of Liberator Simon Bolivar, located in the historic central plaza surrounded by the Congress and Bogota's main Cathedral.

Tomorrow, Fujimori will explain to Colombian businessmen the measures he has adopted to internationalize the Peruvian economy to attract foreign capital.

Fujimori arrived in Colombia accompanied by Prime Minister Alfonso Bustamante, Foreign Minister Efrain Goldenberg, Health Minister Jaime Freundt-Thurne, Fisheries Minister Jaime Sobero, and several ruling party congressmen and businessmen.

### Vows 'No More Terrorism'

*PA1402231194 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2112 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 14 Feb (EFE)—Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori said today in Santa Fe de Bogota that by the end of his term there will be no more terrorism in Peru, because he will wipe it out.

"Two of the world's most violent terrorist groups are being defeated, and by the end of my term they will no longer exist," Fujimori said, referring to the Shining Path [SL] and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA).

Fujimori, who began a two-day official visit to Colombia today, made the statement to journalists at the end of his first meeting with Colombian President Cesar Gaviria.

According to the Peruvian president, terrorism and subversive violence have claimed 25,000 lives in Peru.

He asked jokingly: "What has been the meaning of 'Emperor' Fujimori's government?" He replied that his government "is defeating" the violent groups.

Fujimori reiterated by the time his constitutional terms ends "neither the SL nor the MRTA will exist in Peru. I am going to wipe them out."

Fujimori and Gaviria discussed during their first meeting topics such as drug trafficking and guerrillas, topics that affect both countries. They also discussed bilateral relations.

Both leaders will lay the groundwork for the creation of a Binational Neighbor Commission, and tomorrow they will sign a joint declaration in which they will announce new mechanisms of cooperation for the struggle against drug trafficking and guerrillas.

### U.S. Military Presence Could Have 'Very Serious Consequences'

*PA1302140794 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 10 Feb 94 p 4A*

[Editorial: "There Is No Reason"]

[Text] It is incredible, unbelievable, to see how trivial events can push the country into a crisis that could have very serious consequences. The reason for what is happening is the simple presence of a small group of U.S. soldiers who want to build a school, a road, and a base. These are works that will benefit Colombia. The U.S. soldiers will be leaving the country shortly. Efforts are being made to give this episode constitutional significance. The State Council admitted that the Constitution could have been violated, transferred the incident to the Chamber of Representatives, and hinted that the president should face trial. If one looks into the origin of the

problem, we would find that it does not have the importance some people are trying to give it. The problem is serious, though, because as the matter unfolds, dangerous elements may appear.

The State Council has every right to issue an opinion but it has not replied to the government's legal pronouncement and, on the other hand, has spoken about whether the Constitution was violated. As Colombians we respect what the State Council members think, but we believe that their position is undue because the authorization by the president, or the government, rather, of the presence of foreign soldiers has well-known precedents. Military missions or ships with crews from other countries arrive and disembark, not for warlike actions but to fulfill protocol activities. This is not a violation of sovereignty. We think that the Constitution specifically states that permits are necessary when armed personnel go through Colombian territory with the intention of intervening in a conflict in another country.

We hope we do not appear distrusting if we say that we think that the nasty preelectoral climate exerts influence on decisions in which the interests of the fatherland should prevail over any other motivation. Can anybody imagine that the presence of these U.S. soldiers implies a violation of our sovereignty? Are Colombia's liberty and independence in danger for allowing the performance of works that do not involve warlike activities at all? Those who have visited or are visiting Juanchaco could testify that the soldiers are armed only with shovels and that the tanks are simple tractors.

The president is defending a government branch, the National Defense Ministry, or more specifically the Armed Forces. We would be the first ones to demand all sorts of sanctions or adopting urgent measures if the sovereignty of the homeland we love so dearly was in danger. We therefore support the president, because the opposite is true. National peace is not consolidated with actions as the ones to which this editorial regrettably refers.

We ask our compatriots to listen to the president, evaluate the news conference he gave on 9 February not only to journalists but to the general public. Analyze the government's position and the valid reasons given by a president who has been doing a good job. We should also realize that those who want to attain power and are seeking future political positions take advantage of well-known incidents to try to undermine the prestige President Gaviria has honestly earned during the last months of his administration.

## EL NUEVO SIGLO: President Lied

*PA1302212194 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 10 Feb 94 p 3A*

[Editorial: "Curtain of Lies"]

[Text] One of the worst things that could happen to a head of state is losing his credibility with the people. That is what happened to President Nixon, and we all know the consequences he had to face, ending with his resignation from his post. The smoke screen, or lies, to use a strong but realistic word, which the President has created to cover up two events have no justification.

The first event is that he violated the Constitution by not consulting the Senate, or if that was not possible, the State Council, before authorizing the transit, not only the transit, but the installation of U.S. troops in various parts of our country. This action, as the State Council members have unanimously agreed, hurts our national sovereignty.

The second event is the president's stubborn attempt to hide the truth about the activities carried out by the U.S. soldiers in our country, which have gradually been disclosed. It has been learned that they are not here simply to build a school or a health center at a beach in the Pacific Ocean in Valle del Cauca Department.

The accusation of indignity, for which President Gaviria could be judged should the Chamber of Representatives accept the State Council's request, would be the result of constant attempts by the government and its officials to try and hide facts or actions that were finally disclosed or partially revealed with vague or unclear intentions, or carry out actions that violate the laws and regulations approved by the Constituent Assembly.

During the current administration, the permanent violation of juridical and constitutional regulations has been almost a normal practice in implementing various economic and political, and even judicial measures. In the case of the agreement signed by the defense minister and the U.S. ambassador supposedly to obtain assistance from military engineers to build facilities that could be built by Colombians, the president invoked an old treaty, from the time of the Cold War, which according to some people has not been ratified by Congress.

The treaty and the juridical situation are not the most serious problems he faces. The fact that he took advantage of a congressional recess to infringe on the Constitution by allowing the entrance of foreign soldiers who are currently operating in Juanchaco, in the eastern plains, and the control of some radar that scan our skies are also serious. He did this without consulting the State Council, which was his constitutional duty.

Now the State Council has issued an urgent call to the Attorney General, asking him to initiate a possible disciplinary action against the president. It also submitted a unanimously approved statement to the Accusations Commission of the Chamber of Representatives, asking them to take immediate action to determine if the president should face a political and penal trial for his prevarications.

The president's attacks on a high body of the judicial branch, like the State Council, are unjust and senseless. He has attributed statements to the State Council which it never made. During his 9 February news conference,

he said the State Council's declaration would prevent the appointment of military attaches from other countries. Nowhere in its letter to the president or in its 9 February declaration did the State Council make such a statement. It was also absurd, almost irrational, to describe the members of the State Council or anyone else opposed to the presence of the U.S. soldiers as accomplices of drug trafficking.

Are the U.S. soldiers here to implement, using the Vienna Convention, the policy of repression which the United States has already announced will not be applicable in that drug-consuming country, but which is applicable in drug-producing countries with the bloody results we have seen in Colombia? Why were the Colombian people not informed that the detachments sent from a base in Alabama are here for that purpose? Why did the Juridical Secretariat of the Palace threaten Senator Gomez Hurtado with removal from Congress if he dared to inspect the area near Juanchaco? What unspeakable pressure is there behind this drama which has led the State Council to make such a serious decision as the one it recently made by categorically affirming that the head of state broke the oath he made when he assumed the position his compatriots gave him at the polls and which has endangered national sovereignty?

## Criticism of Handling of U.S. Troops Affair

*PA1302181594 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 10 Feb 94 p 4A*

[Column by Enrique Santos Calderon]

[Text] How things change. Until a few weeks ago President Gaviria enjoyed a prestige and popularity not very common for a president so close to the end of his term. He was way ahead, perhaps too far ahead.

In less than a month his radiant image has dimmed noticeably. The airplane episode [in which musicians traveled on government aircraft] and the Juanchaco problem—the disappointment ["Juanchasco"—play on Spanish word chasco]—has eroded presidential credibility. Paraphrasing the latest vallenato [Colombian folk dance] tune, one could say that the bottom has fallen out of Gaviria's popularity.

The truth is that it is regrettable. But one could see something of the sort coming. I hate quoting myself, but 15 days ago I warned in this column that one got the impression that the president was slacking off certain affairs and that it was not advisable to let go of the reigns of power in a country as unpredictable as ours. Among other reasons, this is because there is nothing so fickle as public opinion about a president and any negligence in an area sensitive to public opinion can wipe away any prestige in a matter of days.

The affair dealing with the presidential airplane—one of those slips that public opinion tolerate less and less from politicians and presidents—has taken a back seat in the face of the Juanchaco affair following the unanimous decision by the State Council to request the Chamber of Deputies Accusation Commission to investigate the president's conduct.

This is how a white lie, the negligent and light treatment of a potentially explosive topic, became a crisis of state in a delicate legal-political process that can end up as a trial against the president by Congress for violation of the country's Constitution and national sovereignty.

If the country is spoken to clearly and frankly on the presence of U.S. military units in Juanchaco and if the people are told directly why they are here or even told that they are here to help us fight drug trafficking and terrorism, I am sure that a very positive current of opinion would have been generated in favor of the arrival of the corps of engineers military battalion.

But when trivial explanations or artful subterfuge are resorted to, when legal entities are bypassed for the sake of commodity or ease, and when contradictions and inconsistencies begin to appear, public opinion starts to become distrustful and critical. The fact is that nobody, even if they are in total favor of the U.S. military presence, likes to be told half truths or have the pill sweetened.

Openness is what was lacking right from the start. Such a fashionable concept was totally absent, especially in the statements of many high-ranking government officials who forgot to apply it when they should have remembered it the most.

The closest presidential advisers are to blame in this regard. Perhaps they have been too naive, dull, or slow, or they are simply inexperienced.

The lack of a more open and honest attitude with the public during difficult moments has affected the Gaviria administration on other occasions. The blackout, Escobar's escape, and the presidential plane incident have been situations in which Colombians got the impression that they were being cheated. It is true that every time this impression has become general, the president has faced up to things and has called news conferences to clear any doubts. But it is always difficult to erase the initial bad taste of knowing that someone was trying to deceive you.

This said, I should add that I believe the Juanchaco situation is being blown out of proportion. It seems as though we are being invaded militarily by an enemy foreign power. But anything is possible in a country where more value is given to the form than the spirit of the law.

We should not forget either the repeated tensions between the Executive Branch and the State Council, whose statement will create a difficult political situation for the president, particularly because we are in an electoral campaign toward the end of an administration. This is the time in which all opportunisms emerge, new

opposition members sprout, and everywhere the most unsuspected defenders of national sovereignty appear.

The electoral use of the Juanchaco episode should not convince anyone. Its political use is too obvious and clumsy. That the campaign against the "yankee invasion" is being led by those who are encouraging the terrorist destruction of our economic infrastructure—which is truly vital for our sovereignty—is just another depressing chapter in this electoral chauvinism.

It is sad, ironic, and certainly unfair that a good and capable president must suffer all these hardships toward the end of his mandate. Everything indicated that Gaviria would finish his presidential period with flying colors. However, instead of being carried out on people's shoulders through the big door, he suddenly ends up gored in the infirmary.

The reason behind this is that this mad bull called Colombia charges without warning and gores treacherously. That is why it is always advised to take the bull by the horns without letting go for a minute until the next bullfighter comes along—never before then.

## Use of Minisubmarines in Cocaine Smuggling Detailed

*PA1402044294 Paris AFP in Spanish 1554 GMT 13 Feb 94*

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 13 Feb (AFP)—Colombian and international cocaine cartels are now resorting to using minisubmarines to smuggle cocaine, the Colombian police disclosed today.

Colombian police seized seven of these minisubmarines in 1993, according to a report released by the Administrative Department of Security (DAS—the secret police) and published today by the Santa Fe de Bogota daily EL ESPECTADOR. According to the report, the DAS and Interpol have determined that the submarines used for shipping large amounts of drugs to Europe and the United States are manufactured in Santa Marta and Barraquilla, two Colombian ports on the Caribbean coast.

EL ESPECTADOR disclosed that these minisubmarines are five meters long and equipped with electronic systems that allow them to navigate just a few meters deep and as shallow as one meter below the water surface. Colombian authorities first seized submarines that were smuggling cocaine a few months ago, and this allowed them to determine that the shipments were leaving Santa Marta and Barranquilla en route to black markets in the United States and Europe.

DAS Director Fernando Brito explained that with these minisubmarines, drug traffickers avoid radar and naval convoys patrolling international waters. He said that after the use of these minisubmarines was discovered in 1993, authorities intensified their efforts in fighting drug trafficking at sea, which is conducted by way of cargo ships and the minisubmarines. The minisubmarines are made of fiberglass, which insulates them from the sea's temperatures.

Investigations by Colombian authorities warn that the Italian and Colombian drug cartels are taking advantage of the political turmoil in some European countries and their lack of resources for fighting drug trafficking. EL ESPECTADOR emphasized that the capos of the Cali Cartel are closely linked to the Italian Mafia and some Israelis, warning that their presence was detected in Colombia in 1993.

EL ESPECTADOR also pointed out that recent investigations have established that the Cali Cartel is using Ecuador and Venezuela as transshipment points. In these two nations, the Cali Cartel has established front companies that it usese to ship containers to Europe and the United States.

The newspaper concluded by saying the DAS will forward a report to the Interpol Secretariat headquartered in France with a description of the labels the drug traffickers use on packages that contain drugs. This document will be distributed in 167 countries affiliated with Interpol, along with a list of names and codes used by the drug traffickers. According to a DEA report, the Cali Cartel is responsible for 80 percent of the world's cocaine trafficking.

## SEMANA Reports Prosecutor Negotiating Independently With Cali Cartel

*PA1402221394 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[From the "National" newscast]

[Text] The magazine SEMANA reported today that Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff, acting on his own and without consulting anyone, has been negotiating for more than a month with the Cali Cartel. According to the publication, the document signed by De Greiff reportedly gave a kind of safe-conduct pass to alleged Cali and Tulua drug traffickers to keep them from being arrested. The names of these drug traffickers are well-known figure Pacho Herrera, Jose Olmedo Campo, and a man named Renteria. According to the magazine, the passes would clearly show Prosecutor De Greiff has been in direct contact with Cali Cartel leaders for more than a month, without previously consulting the government or informing the security corps or the Attorney General's Office. SEMANA said a top government source expressed the government's surprise about the actions taken individually and privately by the prosecutor, because late last year the government and this office agreed to keep each other informed of any developments.

According to SEMANA, the serious thing about the case is not the fact that the prosecutor is acting like a loose cannon, but that from the moment when the drug traffickers first came to his office—on 14 January—it marked the beginning of the preliminary investigations. In other

words, this marked the beginning of the search for evidence that must be provided by the DAS [Administrative Department of Security], the Dijin [Judicial Police and Investigations Directorate] in Colombia, and Interpol. The odd thing is that the Prosecutor General's Office did not officially inform any of these organizations.

### Defense Minister Comments on National Police Reforms

*PA1302031994 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Feb 94*

[From the "National" newscast]

[Excerpt] Just a few minutes ago, the National Police director handed President Cesar Gaviria the final report on changes that will enable the National Police to provide better services. With this, the National Police entered a new era today, which was the deadline for reforming the institution.

A commissioner has been appointed to oversee relations between the police and the community. In just one month, the commissioner has received 60 complaints concerning abuses of power. Meanwhile, 5,300 policemen have been dismissed for disciplinary reasons during the year of reorganization.

[Begin Defense Minister Rafael Pardo recording] This package of reforms will strengthen the National Police, and it will enable the organization to provide more efficient services to all Colombians. This process should be accompanied by citizens showing greater respect for the police and, in general, for all of the authorities trying to improve national security. [end recording]

Subdirectorates specializing in urban and rural patrols were created, as well as one that will include the participation of the public. The police will follow a line of action that is less military and more oriented toward civilian society. Also, the Police Social Security Institute has been created to look after police, and will provide education, housing, and health programs. [passage omitted]

### 'Indiscriminate Cutting' Charges Filed Against Environment Minister

*PA1402030494 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Feb 94*

[From the "NTC" newscast]

[Text] The first Environment Minister Manuel Rodriguez Becerra assumed his post just a few weeks ago, and the Attorney General's Office has already filed charges against him. The charges involve the cutting of trees in the forests of El Choco Department.

According to investigations, the minister and 20 other officials of the Choco [word indistinct] Company, CodeChoco, authorized the indiscriminate cutting of over 200,000 hectares of forest in 1980. Investigations reveal that Rodriguez Becerra, who was the director of Indirena [Institute for Development of Renewable Natural Resources] at the time and a member of the CodeChoco Board of Directors, did not control or verify the permits of five companies, including (Barza 1 and Barza 2), for exploiting the lumber in the (Chajerado) area. The new minister feels that the Codechoco Board of Directors are not responsible for that ecological crime.

[Begin Rodriguez Becerra recording] I did not directly participate, nor am I responsible for the exploitation of lumber in the Indian territories. [end recording]

Nevertheless, the Attorney General's Office has said the exploitation authorized by CodeChoco led to the extinction of over 10 animal species, contamination of the Atrato River, and the expulsion of Indian communities from southern Choco.

## Ecuador

### Duran-Ballen Defends Gasoline Price Increase

*PA1402161794 Paris AFP in Spanish 1921 GMT 12 Feb 94*

[Text] Quito, 12 Feb (AFP)—Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen today defended the legality of the recent 71.2-percent increase in the price of gasoline, which yesterday the Court of Constitutional Guarantees (TGC) declared unconstitutional.

The president questioned the legal status of the court's members as Samuel Belletini, the president of the National Congress, "swore in" Gonzalo Machado, the government representative at the TGC, as the court's chief justice.

In addition to declaring the price hike unconstitutional, the TGC ordered the suspension of all other effects of the presidential decree, stating that the increase "could be very detrimental to the country's future."

Duran-Ballen said that the previous Rodrigo Borja administration (1988-92) appointed Machado as a nonvoting member of the TGC and, as such, he cannot very well represent the current administration. He also questioned the authority of the other TGC members, whose terms were extended in light of differences prevailing in Congress regarding the appointment of new members.

Duran-Ballen said, "Belletini made an arbitrary decision by installing a presidential representative I did not appoint." He announced that Attorney General Carlos Larreategui [name and title as received] will appeal the decision before the Constitutionality Court of the Supreme Court of Justice. According to constitutional reforms approved in 1993, the Constitutionality Court can ratify or overturn TGC decisions, which were previously indisputable. The president recalled that the TGC itself previously had not accepted Machado because he did not meet the court's age requirements.

Of the 11 nonvoting TGC members, six met to discuss the issue and five voted in favor of the unconstitutionality of the decree. The order triggered demonstrations that are threatening to continue if the government upholds the validity of the price hike that has increased the cost of living for the Ecuadoran people.

According to recent reforms made to the laws governing hydrocarbons, the president has the authority to set the price of oil products in Ecuador, which was a member of OPEC up until last year. The oil industry produced 40 percent of the government's budget, and the drop in the price of oil on the international market created a controversial deficit. The government tried to cover the deficit by passing new tax laws, which the Congress rejected, and then decided to raise the price of gasoline.

Contrary to the trend in other countries, the Ecuadoran Government said if the price of crude goes up on the international market, the price of gasoline may go down.

### European Union's Banana Proposal Labeling Rejected

*PA1502010994 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Feb 94*

[From "The Voz Andes" newscast]

[Text] Quito—The Ecuadoran Government has rejected the label of unrealistic that European Union [EU] authorities have used for a proposal that was presented by five Latin American countries to increase their banana export quotas to the European market.

Representatives of the Ecuadoran, Guatemalan, Honduran, Panamanian, and Mexican governments a few days ago presented to Rene Speicken, European agriculture commissioner, a Latin American proposal to abolish the current license system and establish a higher tariff without allocation to countries for non-EU suppliers. [sentence as heard]

The European Union had labeled as unrealistic the new proposal presented by several Latin American countries on the system to export bananas to the EU market. Jose Vicente Maldonado, Ecuadoran industries and commerce minister, has said labeling the proposal as unrealistic is equivalent to labeling as unrealistic the commercial opening and economic globalization processes that have originated in the European Community.

The European Union today announced the withdrawal of its most recent proposal on banana imports due to the five Latin American countries that had filed a lawsuit at GATT; only Colombia and Costa Rica had accepted the proposal.

According to a report from Santa Fe de Bogota, the Colombian banana industry on Friday considered the possibility of joining forces with Guatemala to file a third recourse at GATT against the EU's banana-importing system. Juan Diego Velez, president of the Association of Uraba Banana Producers, has said this possibility will have to be studied, because the Colombian banana market's situation is unfavorable. According to Velez, Colombian banana producers have already lost approximately $32 million since the EU changed the terms for importing bananas.

### * New Minister Examines Foreign Trade Issues

*94SM0198B Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 11 Jan 94 p 2*

[Interview with Minister of Industry, Commerce, Integration, and Fisheries Jose Maldonado Davila; place and date not given]

[Text] Quito—Jose Maldonado Davila, the new minister of industry, commerce, integration, and fisheries, has announced that the body he heads is working closely with the nation's business sector to strengthen the productive apparatus, to develop foreign trade, and to strengthen social action in response to the challenges posed by the globalization of the economy.

Emphasizing that the development of the nation's foreign trade will be the first priority during his administration, he also emphasized the need to simplify the procedures in that sector and to intensify the processes of integration and establishment of bilateral commercial agreements.

[EL UNIVERSO] What level of concern do foreign trade and the processes of integration merit?

[Maldonado] During my administration, foreign trade will be the number one priority. It is essential that we speed up the processes of integration; strengthen the Andean Pact agreements and the relationships we must maintain with other countries as a community, as the Andean Pact; reinforce the bilateral relations our country has with other nations; strengthen the policy of fostering open trade with the world; and integrate our country in the world process and in technological and economic globalization. Blocs are being formed on every continent, and it is therefore necessary to strengthen our economic bloc in the Andean area, comprising Chile, Mexico, the MERCOSUR [Common Market of the South], and the rest of the Latin American countries. There is not the slightest doubt that, for Ecuador's nontraditional products in particular, the Latin American market is very important, very promising.

[EL UNIVERSO] Is Ecuador experiencing difficulties with Colombia with regard to the sale of alcoholic beverages and iron to Venezuela? How will this situation be handled?

[Maldonado] We must demand that all countries adhere to those mechanisms that the agreements in the Andean area already provide. This will perhaps be the focus of the first efforts made by the ministry. I will be meeting with representatives of the domestic liquor industry and the domestic iron and steel industry for the purpose of

developing a strategy. This strategy must be one that is best suited to the standardization and regularization of the situation involving dumping and the marketing of liquors by the Accord Commission. All of the Andean countries must adhere to the mechanisms in effect.

[EL UNIVERSO] What will the policy pursued with regard to medicines be?

[Maldonado] Each industrial sector has its own special characteristics and its own production, market, sales, and price problems. I will have to meet with representatives of all the sectors, so that within the framework of an overall policy for the development of industry and trade, we can proceed to resolve each of the problems they encounter.

[EL UNIVERSO] Do you advocate the liberalization of medicine prices?

[Maldonado] That is a problem we will have to study at the ministry. I do not have a precise definition to give you on this matter.

[EL UNIVERSO] Although the norms for holding back coffee are in effect, has it not been announced that Ecuador will not comply with these regulations?

[Maldonado] I will be happy to respond to questions on these current issues after I have held meetings with the sectorial representatives and those who have studied this policy. What I should indeed mention is that the government will support all of the efforts made by the private sector to ensure growth and development, to create jobs, and to advance the social development of the country.

[EL UNIVERSO] If you foresee an open door for the productive sectors, how will this be achieved?

[Maldonado] It will be achieved based on mutual cooperation through permanent dialogue and the harmonizing of the policies pursued and the efforts made, and with a view to facing up successfully to the challenge of competition on our own market and foreign markets. We must modernize industry in terms of quality, obtain better yields and better prices, and provide the appropriate legal-reference framework that industry needs in order to develop. In the final analysis, the productive sector is demanding clear rules of the game and the simplification of the state. I have been in the forefront of the battle for modernization, and I am confident that I will be able to sign the draft decree that has been submitted to the president of the Republic before this week is over. This decree will abrogate a series of accords, regulations, and decrees that are definitely making the task of the state and the productive sector more difficult.

We are going to put a very special effort into this process of simplifying the state, and to this end we will work together with the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank, and all of the sectors that deal with the nation's productive process on a daily basis.

An effort is being made to simplify about 3,000 agreements, regulations, and normative Ecuadoran legislative texts that pertain not only to the norming of the productive sector, but to the state as a whole and to the procedures involved in importing raw materials and exporting. This means price setting and the elimination of a series of administrative hindrances.

[EL UNIVERSO] Will the single form for exports be eliminated in this simplification process, as the business sector is demanding?

[Maldonado] I cannot give you any details as yet, but as soon as I have the information, I will reveal everything involving this ministry.

[EL UNIVERSO] It is said that with you in office, concrete agreements within the Andean Group are guaranteed.

[Maldonado] I believe that considerable progress has been made. What we need to do is to speed up the process. A series of negotiations with other countries is being pursued by the Andean Pact, as a community, and very important bilateral agreements are also under way.

The task of this ministry is not Andean integration alone, but foreign trade in general. It is obvious that we must therefore combine our efforts with those being made by the Ministries of Agriculture and Foreign Relations.

### * Monetary Board President Discusses Economic Plans

*94SM0198A Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 4 Jan 94 p 3*

[Interview with Ana Lucia Armijos, president of the Monetary Board, by Roberto Peralta Cardenas; place and date not given]

[Text] The first step included in the plans for the new year is the reduction of expenditures in the public sector, Monetary Board President Ana Lucia Armijos has announced.

In an interview with EL UNIVERSO, this official emphasized that the goals set for the government do not mean that a period of stagnation lies ahead for the economy. On the contrary, the reactivation of the productive apparatus will basically be supported by the dynamism of the private sector, and in part by the improvement in the levels of public investment.

Armijos explained that despite the fact that production growth came to about 2 percent in 1993, as compared with 3.5 percent in 1992, the rate of growth in the gross formation of fixed capital exceeded 50 percent. This represents growth that is greater than the increase in the population.

"Greater growth in productive activity, in both the public and private sectors, is expected in 1994," she said.

**Inflation Below 20 Percent**

She stated that the government will seek to provide the economy with responsible fiscal management in 1994, making it possible to consolidate the reduction in inflation at a rate of less than 20 percent by the end of 1994.

Armijos did not mention the goal of 15-percent annual inflation for 1994, to which reference has been made over the past several months, in what might be interpreted as one of the principal effects of the most recent fiscal crisis.

Armijos said that as of the end of 1993, the greatest social benefit provided to the people of Ecuador by the government of Sixto Duran-Ballen has been the reduction in inflation.

This official refuted the criticisms voiced by businessmen who maintain that on balance 1993 was a year of recession. She went on to say that intermediary credit for the financial sector increased by 30 percent, in real terms, so that it can be said that the formal sector had adequate resources for the financing of its activities.

Armijos said that the monetary and foreign-exchange boards will continue to be used in 1994. This will make strict control of liquidity possible. She further said that it is expected that the amendments to the Law on the Monetary System will be "taken up and approved by the Congress" within the first two months of the year.

Our interview with the head of the body that directs the economy follows.

[Cardenas] How do you assess the economic activity in 1993, as 1994 begins? What is the legacy left for the new year?

[Armijos] In the year just ended, it was possible to reduce inflation to 31 percent—a goal that for more than five years, the preceding governments were unable to achieve. The goal for the reduction of inflation was reached thanks to the responsible, consistent, and concerted effort made in the monetary and fiscal sectors. Other important achievements include the stabilization of the rate of exchange, the stabilization of the financial market, and a substantial reduction in the fiscal deficit. In addition, the foreign sector was strengthened, enabling the country to accumulate reserves of more than $1 billion since the program was adopted.

In 1993, the country made progress toward the more flexible use of the tools of economic policy. Better management of the utilization of the tools of monetary policy based on the market was achieved. A new system was designed for interest rates, allowing greater flexibility for the middlemen and greater efficiency in the allocation of financial resources. And the foreign-exchange policy was made fully flexible, with a view to rendering the establishment of the most important price in the economy—the rate of exchange—a much clearer process.

[Cardenas] What is the lesson taught by the achievement of the inflationary goal in the year just ended? Are there some who maintain that it is a relative success?

[Armijos] There is no sense in speaking of a relative success when we have succeeded in reducing the rate of inflation from 60 percent in December of 1992 to 31 percent in December of 1993. This is the greatest social benefit the government of architect Sixto Duran-Ballen has given the people of Ecuador.

The reduction of the rate of inflation to 31 percent and the maintenance of macroeconomic stability have additionally allowed investors to plan their activities with greater confidence. And what is more, they have expanded their investment horizons into the medium time range.

[Cardenas] What the productive sectors have suffered has without a doubt been a recession, rather than a slowdown. How can this situation be improved in the new year if recession does reoccur in 1994?

[Armijos] The major increase in intermediate credit for the financial sector, which was 30 percent in real terms in 1993, allows us to say that the formal sector had adequate resources for the financing of its activities.

The initial estimates indicate that an increase of approximately two percent in production growth was planned for 1993, as compared with the growth of 3.5 percent seen in 1992. It should be noted, however, that the rate of growth in the gross formation of fixed capital for this year exceeds 50 percent. In real terms, this represents growth greater than the increase in the population.

Still greater growth in productive activity is expected in 1994, with the impetus being provided by the greater gross formation of fixed capital in both the public and private sectors. In fact, the state budget provides for projects of vital importance that will promote growth in various sectors.

[Cardenas] In your opinion what are the economic prospects for 1994?

[Armijos] In 1994, the government will seek to provide the economy with responsible fiscal management, making it possible to consolidate the reduction in inflation and to lower the inflation rate to less than 20 percent by the end of 1994. This responsible fiscal management will involve a major reduction in current expenditures and a substantial improvement in tax and customs management, which will serve to generate additional budget resources.

This does not mean that a phase of stagnation will begin for the economy. On the contrary, the reactivation of the productive apparatus will be due basically to the dynamism in the public sector, and in part, to the improvement in the levels of public investment. This dynamism will be based on the maintenance of foreign-exchange

stability, a level of interest rates consistent with inflationary expectations, and a considerable increase in productivity.

It must be pointed out that the growth seen in 1993 was achieved despite the implementation of a strict adjustment program, which reduced inflation. This is a result that has been achieved in very few countries in Latin America.

[Cardenas] How much will the progress that may be achieved in the modernization of the state influence the economic prospects for the coming year?

[Armijos] The approval, in 1994, of the Law on the Modernization of the State and its application will enable us to consolidate the efforts to ensure stability with growth and will provide the international community with a favorable picture of the scope and duration of the reforms in Ecuador. Modernization and monetary stability do not constitute just a situational phenomenon, but rather a permanent one. It will continue in our country and will sink deep roots in our society.

[Cardenas] If it is not possible to realize the government's aspirations with regard to increased taxes and total income collected, might new measures be contemplated?

[Armijos] As the vice president of the Republic has said, the results of the tax reform would justify a revision of the economic program for 1994. In addition, as was noted by the minister of finance, the first measure must be the restriction of the expenditures of the public sector, including both current expenditures and the investments initially planned for 1994.

[Cardenas] What does the government hope to see in 1994 where the foreign debt is concerned? Might there be a definitive renegotiation, and along what lines are the negotiations progressing? Might the Monetary Board approve the foreign-debt conversion operations within the framework of the Securities Market Law?

[Armijos] The renegotiation of the foreign debt is a slow process that is advancing as macroeconomic stabilization is achieved and as the country consolidates its foreign solvency. The intention of the government is to obtain an agreement on the renegotiation of the debt, because this will not only enable us to establish a better payments profile for the future, but will basically allow the consolidation of the credibility, for the international financial community, of our efforts in the realm of stabilization and modernization. Renegotiation will enable the country to obtain credit again and will expand the opportunities for domestic and foreign investment. However, despite all of the benefits we will derive from the renegotiation of the debt, the current government is not prepared to agree to conditions that will be burdensome for future generations. In this connection, progress is being made, with firmness and determination but without haste, taking the national interests into account. As to the debt-conversion operations, they will be governed by the overall renegotiation agreement achieved.

[Cardenas] Several months have passed and we are still waiting for the amendments to the Law on the Monetary System. When will something concrete be known? Might some major alteration at the last moment be expected, as happened with the amendments to the Tax Law?

[Armijos] The amendments to the Law on the Monetary System, duly approved by the Monetary Board, have been submitted to the president of the Republic for his approval and sent to the Congress. It is to be expected that they will be discussed and approved by the Congress in the course of the first two months of this year.

The Law on the Monetary System is an eminently technical text designed to perfect that which was approved in 1992—that is to say, to introduce basic changes in the way shown to be necessary by the application of the law in effect, so that the Central Bank can fully carry out the proper functions of a currency-issuing institute.

**Auctions Have Not Threatened the State**

[Cardenas] Will the criticisms voiced by the securities-exchange sector because of the fact that the government has used auctions rather than the securities market be refuted?

[Armijos] The negotiation of state bonds by the minister of finance through the Central Bank of Ecuador has its legal basis in Article 63 of the Regulations Governing the Securities Market Law. That article clearly provides for the possibility of placing the bonds issued by the state and bodies in the public sector by means of the auction mechanisms supported or used by the Central Bank of Ecuador. Such mechanisms are not just used by Ecuador, but are in place in the majority of other countries, such as the United States of America, Mexico, Chile, etc.

The auction mechanism has not worked to the detriment of the interests of the state, because in the adjudication of the bonds in question, the reserve price was not relevant. This was because the bonds sold out at a higher price (90.01 percent), and the average weighted price at which they were adjudicated was also obviously higher (91.3333 percent) than this value.

[Cardenas] Will the monetary policy for 1994 be linked with the continuity of open-market operations of the monetary and foreign-exchange board type? Will the issuance of monetary stabilization bonds perhaps entail a cost for the Central Bank?

[Armijos] In fact, open-market operations are an effective tool that has made it possible to maintain strict control of the liquidity of the economy. And consequently, this has created the capacity for more efficient management of the variable monetary factors. Therefore, the use of this tool will be continued in 1994.

Since the stabilization bonds are the securities being placed on this market, this does involve a cost for the Central Bank. However, it is a cost that has been carefully calculated and duly provided for in the budget of the issuing establishment.

## Paraguay

### Government Changes Foreign Policy Profile

*PY1102152994 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 11 Feb 94 p 12*

[Text] The Paraguayan Government will refute a U.S. Government report on the human rights situation in our country. The national government is apparently drafting a document in which President Juan Carlos Wasmosy's administration will state its viewpoint and refute information it deems incorrect. The government thus inaugurates a new stage in Paraguayan foreign relations, abandoning its passive posture and acting more independently before other countries. Proof of this is the stance regarding the U.S. Government's request to send troops to our country to build six schools and eight water wells in San Pedro Department without the participation of the Paraguayan Army.

Before accepting this "social aid", the government sent the U.S. Embassy a lengthy note requesting more details about the mission and the funds that each party will have to invest in the joint exercise, and proposing the participation of the Paraguayan Armed Forces.

The Paraguayan Foreign Ministry note to the U.S. Government conditions the development of the operation to the participation of Paraguayan sappers, a detailed list of the tasks the U.S. troops will carry out, and an account of what the operation will cost each country, among other requirements.

The U.S. State Department has issued a report on the situation of human rights in Paraguay that was released by the U.S. Embassy in Asuncion.

Contradictory reactions—for and against—to the negative aspects of the report flew as soon as it was disclosed.

U.S. Ambassador Jon Glassman was summoned by Paraguayan Foreign Minister Luis Maria Ramirez Boettner, who informed the ambassador of the government's unrest over the U.S. State Department report. He was told that the Paraguayan Government would rectify and clarify some points of the report.

That same day German Ambassador Joachin Kausch was also summoned by Foreign Minister Ramirez Boettner to explain his statement to the media regarding the absence of Paraguayan guarantees for foreign investors.

After a long interview, the German ambassador said the media had misinterpreted what he had said, that he never described Paraguay as an unsafe country for foreign investments.

Asked about a lack of guarantees for investors, President Wasmosy said that there seems to be an orchestrated campaign to distort the country's image abroad, although he did not say who is responsible.

### Minister Warns Peasants Against 'Adventures'

*PY1202155894 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 12 Feb 94 p 2*

[Excerpt] On 11 February Paraguayan Interior Minister Carlos Podesta was asked at Government House whether the peasants of Tava'i Borda had been found to be armed. The minister answered: "We found no military weapons." He stated that leftist activists are operating in Tava'i Borda. He added: "I am warning my fellow countrymen, the peasants, not to participate in adventures at the invitation of some enthusiastic people, because most probably, at the time of truth, those enthusiastic people will be nowhere near the front line... I want to reiterate that according to information on hand, to the investigation we conducted, and to what we actually found, the peasants will not last five minutes in a battle." The minister stressed that he "does not want any innocent victims."

Podesta stated: "The leftists are there," adding that "there is nothing wrong with that.... It is no longer a sin to be a leftist." He went on to say that "it is still a sin, however, for leftists, rightists, centrists, people from above or below, to advocate breaking the law. It cannot be tolerated."

The minister indicated that sometimes the leftists, as well as other groups, advocate breaking the law. He did not specify which other groups. Podesta said: "Sometimes we tend to forget the rules of the game and if we find these rules inappropriate we have a democratic congress which we can ask to amend the law. Until the laws are amended they must be complied with. The law must be obeyed."

Podesta admitted that the state does not have a representative in Tava'i Borda, adding that state supervision is not good, nor should it last forever. He explained that the settling of the area began in 1989 "amid general approval, but nobody could have imagined that peasants would be expelling other peasants. Furthermore the administration was unable to provide the followup support to guarantee the success of the settlement."

The minister added that a state emergency program is under way to help the peasants. He announced that a permanent and broader plan will be implemented later. [passage omitted]

### Police Crack Down on Peasants Blocking Highway

*PY1502025094 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Excerpts] Peasants from Guayaiby today blocked Route No. 3 in San Pedro Department. They belong to the same group of peasants that had been evicted from a property

owned by [Colorado Party] Senator Blas N. Riquelme, on which they were squatting. The National Police quelled the riot, causing injuries to 12 people.

[Begin National Police Chief Superintendent Mario A. Sapriza recording] At approximately 0900 this morning, a group of peasants who had been evicted from Mr. Riquelme's property blocked Route No. 3 with six logs that they laid on the highway. They even had gasoline at their disposal so as to set fire to these logs and also destroy the highway. This is the reason why the police had to intervene in this affair. They ordered the some 400 peasants who were blocking the road to leave and make way for vehicles, as there was already a bottleneck. The peasants, however, responded violently to the security forces. Hence, the riot police were summoned and following a clash that lasted approximately two or three minutes, they managed to drive them off. [end recording]

As a result of this crackdown, one peasant was seriously injured and 11 others sustained minor injuries. They were rushed to Santani clinic, located at Santani City, where they were given medical attention. [passage omitted]

Peasants blame the government for what happened today and expect it will try to find a solution to the conflict.

[Begin Adalberto Benitez, leader from the Struggle for Land Movement, recording] The way the government and institutions acted today is not surprising to us because they prefer to quash us instead of solving our land problems. This attitude finally goaded us into the use of force and into taking the measures we are taking to air our grievances. We want congressmen who sit on the Human Rights and Agrarian Reform Committees, the IBR [Agrarian Reform Institute], Judge Silvio Flores Mendoza, and the owner [of the property] to come here to settle the following issues:

1. The immediate release of our comrades who are being held in custody.

2. Clearing up the murder of our comrade Maximo Prieto.

3. Medical attention for our comrades who are in the hospital and for a child, who following the crackdown, developed mental problems due to the blows he received.

4. A commitent to investigate Senator Blas N. Riquelme's large, unproductive estates and the expropriation of the 5,000 unproductive hectares we have laid claim to.

5. Immedate withdrawal of bulldozers and specialized riot police from the place and the return of our belongings. [end recording]

## Peru

### Reportage, Comment on La Cantuta Case, Events

#### * Military Probe Criticized

*94SM0202A Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 27 Dec 93 p A2*

[Commentary by Luis Miro Quesada G.: "Cover-Up Also a Crime"]

[Text] A reading of the well-documented report written by Ernesto de la Jara Basombrio and published by IDEELE magazine, on events that began on the fateful morning of 18 July 1992, when nine students and a professor at La Cantuta University were kidnapped, and later murdered, cannot but leave the reader stricken as deeply by the savagery of the murders and treatment of the remains as by the significance of the ensuing acts of suppression, of dilatory judicial proceedings, of obstructive tactics, and finally, even of cover-up of such a despicable crime, at the military, judicial, and political levels. The following is based on information taken from the IDEELE article.

The events having taken place as they did, it was obvious, as the CCD [Democratic Constituent Congress] Committee's report later indicated, that the raid had been of a paramilitary nature. The university campus was guarded by the military and was under curfew at the time. And the raid itself—the type of weapons used, the silencers, the subordination of the military personnel stationed there, the secrecy of identities, the existence of a previously prepared list, etc.—all indicated this to be the case. Instead of launching an investigation, the military authorities limited themselves to denying the detentions. For months, while the victims' families fought to no avail in the courts—in a quest for justice, as we will see further on—the military command took no action in the matter until April 1993 when, as a result of an anonymous document received by Congressman Pease and read by him on the floor of the Congress, it agreed to appoint an investigating committee.

According to the anonymous document, Vladimiro Montesino is said to have coordinated the carrying out of the raid designated "Kidnap," with the participation of the chief of the Intelligence Directorate and the chief of the Special Forces Division, both of whom, in turn, allegedly coordinated the operation with the commanding officer of the siege of La Cantuta, and with the commanding officer of Headquarters Battalion 19. The document alleges that the Army Commander in Chief was informed, and that he ordered that no mistakes be made. "The document certainly did not constitute proof of anything, but it definitely pointed to allegations requiring investigation." In view of this, the Investigating Committee summoned General Nicolas de Bari Hermoza to testify on the subject. The high military official twice postponed his testimony, and during the intervening days, in consideration of two disclosures on his part, a judicial proceeding was instituted within the

military jurisdiction, that thus far, nine months later, has served more to stifle justice than to shed light on the facts.

The chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff declined to testify before the Committee because the case was before the Supreme Council of Military Justice and, according to this Council, "no authority may take over cases pending before the mentioned military jurisdictional body, nor interfere in the exercise of its functions." As is public knowledge, General Hermoza Rios stated that it was all a political maneuver by left-wing members of Congress to slander the Army. Then, in a move ostensibly aimed at intimidation, he ordered the tanks out into the streets, as high-ranking military officials read a supporting statement, characterizing Congress's action as "A base attempt to implicate the Peruvian Army in an alleged violation of human rights, maliciously using for that purpose spurious documents forged by a small group of opposition congressmen...."

Thus, naively or maliciously, an investigative proceeding was transformed into an incrimination of the Armed Forces; and a parliamentary investigation was thwarted.

On 29 April, General Robles, a political refugee in the United States Embassy, issued a public statement in which he indicated that the La Cantuta crime had been perpetrated by a special detail of the SIN [National Intelligence Service], in collaboration with the SIE [Army Intelligence Service], and with the Intelligence Directorate of the EMGE [Army General Staff]. General Robles detailed the names of officers and subordinates who had participated; and stated that the mentioned special detail operated under the orders of Vladimiro Montesino with the knowledge of the chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Serious though the accusation is, equally serious are the actions that have been taken to silence it. According to Robles's public statement, when he learned of these occurrences of utmost gravity, he requested a talk with General Jose Picon Alcalde, president of the Military Tribunal, informed him of what he had learned, and urged that the Tribunal proceed accordingly. The answer was: "Look, friend, the General Inspectorate of the Army has concluded that neither the Army nor any of its members had anything to do with this case.... Therefore, I am going to drag it out until the people forget about the matter." The allegation is a grave one indeed, implicating as it does the very president of the Military Tribunal, but a conversation between two persons is the word of one against that of the other.

What makes the account credible in this case is the fact that, the day after, Robles was summoned by General Hermoza Rios, to receive the Supreme Decision signed that day transferring him to the IADB [Inter-American Defense Board] to which post he was to travel most urgently. In this ugly story, which is seemingly on the verge of being substantiated, there is, concerning the La Cantuta affair, an accusation and an attempt at silencing.

With the discovery of the graves at Cieneguilla and Huachipa, the affair acquired so much notoriety that the chief of the 16th Provincial Office of the Public Prosecutor, Doctor Victor Cubas Villanueva, finally instituted proceedings against those whose names appear in the cited incriminatory documents, and, having requested arraignment of the detained officers, summoned them to appear in court. They have not appeared, in contempt of the writ, and the Supreme Council of Military Justice has instituted a conflict of jurisdiction proceeding, that if settled in its favor would make it very difficult, in view of the history of this case thus far, to arrive at a total clarification of the events, and full punishment of those responsible.

The intent to not investigate has been no less evident at the judicial level. The writ of Habeas Corpus filed by the president of La Cantuta University at the end of July, was declared contrary to law for lack of substantiating evidence. The Habeas Corpus filed by the mother of one of the victims, after being bounced back and forth, was declared contrary to law, with the incredible argument that "the material kidnapping of the 10 persons was not proven." Finally, the 6th Criminal Branch of the Court confirmed the ruling denying the Habeas Corpus, with the equally incredible argument that "neither has the physical existence of the citizens been verified."

The Public Prosecutor's Office, because of the university president's report, knew of the case as of 1 August, but there as well, action to investigate and prefer charges was delayed. And in the end, that office instituted no proceedings whatever, opting for disqualifying itself and forwarding the matter to the Superior Council of Military Justice, notwithstanding the existence of a record that the 8th District Public Prosecutor's Office had reported to the nation's Attorney General that it was clear that the high command of the Peruvian Army "are concealing" the said information.

And procrastinations and postponements continue. Instead of ruling on the question of the courts' jurisdictions submitted to him by Judge Flores Chacon, Public Prosecutor Cubas Villanueva is contending that he cannot rule until the question of that judge's recusation is resolved; as if judicial rulings on the jurisdictions of the courts depended upon this or that person.

At the political level, in government circles, the same line of conduct has been followed for many months: that of acting not to clarify the facts, but on the contrary to impede their clarification. The best proof of this is that, in the face of determined pressure by the CCD's Investigating Committee to obtain the testimony of the implicated military personnel, the CCD opted to approve, by majority vote, the opposing motion, which provided that the military personnel summoned by the Committee not be present in person, but be represented by their chiefs.

Clumsily wrought, this device implemented a policy if not of cover-up, certainly one of not uncovering the truth. Statements by the ministers of state and by the

president himself have been purely rhetorical, platitudinous utterances of principle but, de facto, neither reproving nor intending to correct such an obvious process of cover-up. A process reaching such extremes as the contention by Congressmen Sigra and Freundt, in their minority report as members of the Investigating Committee, that: "Voluntary disappearance is probable, considering that, from the information at the disposal of the Committee, it is clear that there are many cases of persons reported as disappeared who, later, have been located in other places, to which they have moved so as not to be identified, and thus engage in terrorist activities." The remains at Cieneguilla and Huachipa are accusatory attestations to the contrary.

### * Army Strategy Said 'Humanitarian'

*94SM0202B Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 30 Dec 93 p A30*

[Editorial: "Code of Silence and Democracy"]

[Text] The La Cantuta case must be transferred to the courts of common law, and those responsible must be punished. These are the rules of democracy and of civilization. They are inescapable, despite the fact that many of us feel that great injustice is done when, after having borne the brunt of an atrocious war, in which they proved capable, moreover, of implementing a correct and humane strategy, the Armed Forces are made the target of pseudo-apostles of good.

In internal wars—and above all, in one as long as this one has been and against as treacherous, cruel, and savage an enemy as Shining Path—the tendency to form secret extermination groups is almost spontaneous. In a recent interview, Enrique Obando stated that in every army of the world there is a double code: a written one that comprises the regulations and conforms with the Constitution, and an unwritten one that in a veiled manner authorizes the existence of groups that carry out illegal operations. If this double code is a commonplace in all armies, it is also one in ours, which has endured the strain of an extremely hard internal war.

This is what occurred in Argentina. But, there, the secret code was applied in a systematic manner, and became official strategy. In Peru, it was applied only sporadically, never systematically. On the contrary, the incredible, the truly extraordinary fact, is that, beginning in 1990, the Armed Forces were able to implement the opposite strategy. Starting from that year, their systematic strategic policy was one of alliance with the population, under which the Armed Forces gave arms to the civilian patrols, food and civic aid to the disadvantaged urban populations, and built roads in high-risk areas. An intelligent action that enabled the capture of thousands of terrorist leaders without firing a single shot. An astute strategy, in sum, extremely respectful of human rights, diametrically opposed to the strategy of indiscriminate slaughter. This is why it produced results. This is why it had the people's support. These are the facts.

In Peru, that code of silence did not become strategy. There was a group of executioners, but it was a vestige of a previous stage, and in conflict with the strategy that in the end succeeded.

In truth, the Peruvian Army, being in no way compromised by the investigation, has no reason to feel mistreated by it. Very much on the contrary, the Army must proudly show everybody its proven ability to learn and adapt its war strategy not only to humanitarian principles but also to the reality of the only effective action for defeating an enemy that felt it could move among the people like a fish in the water.

Clearly, the code of silence is incompatible with democracy. What we know today about La Cantuta is owing to the fact that a policy split within the Army has led certain officers to reveal the identities of those who might have been the perpetrators of that massacre, bringing information to public light that, in another time, would not have been made known. This, in addition to its hard-fought rivalry with the accusing group, is why the Army is resisting the investigation.

But justice is inevitable. And in the end, in spite of everything, the truth shall prevail: That the Peruvian Army was able to overcome the terrorist enemy cleanly, by intelligent, humanitarian, and democratic means.

### Justice Minister: Military To Try Case

*PA1402222594 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Feb 94*

[Text] Peruvian Justice Minister Fernando Vega Santagadea has told the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva military courts will try the soldiers allegedly involved in the murder of 10 people at La Cantuta University. The minister has said if Armed Forces members are indeed involved in this crime, their sentences will show there is no impunity in Peru.

On another topic, Vega has also reported that 95 percent of terrorist leaders are now in jail and that hope has been restored in Peru. The shadow of Marxist-Leninist-Maoist Communism no longer hovers over the country's future, the justice minister has said. He added, however, the struggle against terrorism and the state of emergency continued, and he justified the validity of several measures geared toward punishing and eradicating subversion.

### U.S. Pronouncement Opposed

*PA1502030794 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Feb 94*

[From the "Global TV News" newscast]

[Text] Carlos Torres y Torres Lara, Constituent Democratic Congress [CCD] vice president, has expressed his opposition to the U.S. pronouncement on the bill transferring the La Cantuta case to military jurisdiction. He

added the U.S. participation as part of the support group has not been confirmed yet.

[Begin recording] [Torres y Torres] CCD congressmen are not stating the Peruvian Government's official position. In this specific case I have expressed an opinion as an independent congressman and now as CCD president. [sentence as heard] The country's position is taken by the president of the Republic and the Foreign Ministry, however.

[Unidentified reporter] Has the United States in any way confirmed its participation in the support group?

[Torres y Torres] Nothing has been stated yet regarding support being suspended or anything of the sort, just the U.S. concern on this issue. We have agreed on the need to wait a few more days or weeks so this chapter related to the La Cantuta issue can be played out by events to come. Concerning La Cantuta, we at Congress expect an effective pronouncement, a just and exemplary sentence, and we expect it will complete the outlook of to what we have been referring. We expect that resolution will take place very soon. [end recording]

### Congressman Condemns Jurisdiction Bill Passage

*PA1002194994 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Feb 94*

[Interview with Antero Flores Araoz, congressman for the Popular Christian Party, by Eduardo Lindo Collantes at the Congress of the Republic in Lima; from the "Newspaper of the Airwaves" newscast—live]

[Text] [Collantes] Good afternoon. I am at the Congress of the Republic covering reaction to the bill which Congress approved early this morning on the conflicts over civilian versus military jurisdiction in cases that do not involve drug trafficking. The bill eliminates the possibility that one person alone can decide if a case is to be tried by a civilian or military court.

We have Antero Flores Araoz, congressman for the Popular Christian Party [PPC] with us. Congressman, we would like your comments on this issue. How do you view the fact that a congressional majority passed this bill when the La Cantuta case is still to be resolved?

[Flores] Listen, what we saw at the Congress last night is something we never imagined could happen. Really, all moral principles were trampled. They [the ruling majority] did not care about anything and displayed an attitude of total arrogance and gall. The issue was not on the agenda and had not been discussed at the council board meeting. The issue was presented between midnight and dawn. They took advantage of the fact that the tribute to Don Luis Alberto Sanchez [recently deceased American Popular Revolutionary Alliance leader] had ended, and, without even distributing copies of the bill beforehand, they started the debate. The bill had not even gone through the commissions. This bill really dashes all the international pacts on international law signed by Peru. Those agreements clearly stipulate Peru's commitments with the due process of law and the people's right to be tried by competent courts. This law has a set purpose.

[Collantes] However, the argument presented to substantiate the bill's approval is that the physical integrity of the magistrates, who have to decide on the jurisdiction of the La Cantuta case, has to be protected.

[Flores] Does this mean the Armed Forces and the Police are not able to protect one, two, or three supreme court justices? Does this mean our Armed Forces and Police are so inefficient that they can't provide this protection and that we need to trample all moral principles and violate five articles of the Constitution simply because a leaflet fell in a justice's home? Is this their excuse for trampling the Constitution and international agreements? Please! This is only a plot between the Executive and Legislative branches to cover up the people involved in the famous La Cantuta case. They have become accomplices in this case.

[Collantes] Congressman, a few minutes ago you presented a bill to repeal the questionable habeas data [as heard] article included in the 1993 Constitution. What prompted this action?

[Flores] It is really very simple. Many people are talking about the need to regulate the constitutional article on habeas data and stressing that some of its dangers should be expunged. The PPC bloc believes, and said so when the Constitution was being debated, that the habeas data has to disappear. Dead dogs do not bite. Let us wipe out this article from the Constitution and kill this deadly institution at the root.

[Collantes] This was PPC Congressman Flores. The opposition congressmen are currently meeting at Democratic Movement Congressman Henry Peace Garcia's office and will shortly issue a communique on the case having jurisdiction problems and on the bill approved early this morning. Back to the station.

### Weekly on Drug Trafficker's Link With Military

*PY1202174794 Lima CARETAS in Spanish 3 Feb 94 p 29*

[Article by Fernando Rospigliosi from the "Controversies" page: "'Vaticano' and the Military"]

[Text] The arrest of drug trafficker Demetrio Chavez, aka "Vaticano," seems to confirm what some have feared: The involvement of the military—and not only those of lower ranks—with drug trafficking and the existence of corruption within the Armed Forces. Several factors point to this.

First, there is the testimony of Major Evaristo Castillo Aste that was published in CARETAS issue No. 1295

and then by other media. He gave a precise, detailed, and brave account of the military's relationship with drug trafficking.

The fact is that Maj. Castillo's charges not only link subordinate officers to drug trafficking. He mentioned the names of generals who, through action or omission, may be linked: General Eduardo Bellido, head of the Huallaga front for two years; Interior Minister Juan Briones; and Army Commander General Nicolas de Bari Hermoza.

There is also the version of another Army officer published in the same issue. This information confirms many other similar reports.

Second, "Vaticano" was labeled as a narcoterrorist and was placed under the military court. Why should a military court judge a drug trafficker? Didn't [President Alberto] Fujimori reorganize the judicial branch and issue all the laws he wished? Why can't the new judicial branch judge "Vaticano"?

This strange behavior leads to the belief that they do not want "Vaticano" to talk. If he is tried by a military court, the trial will be secret. Nobody will know what the drug trafficker said. There will be no point in him telling the military about his contact with other military from whom they receive orders.

Moreover, by keeping him under military control they can negotiate with "Vaticano", without the people knowing about it as they have done—and continue to do—with Abimael Guzman and the terrorist leadership.

Another query that arises immediately from labeling "Vaticano" as a narcoterrorist is that if he only dealt with other terrorists and not with the military, where is the fortune the terrorists amassed? This raises another theory mentioned a few weeks ago by this column: The money that the Shining Path leadership keeps abroad is probably part of the negotiation between Abimael Guzman, Fujimori, and Montesinos.

When jounalists recently ago asked Fujimori about Guzman's money, he replied: "I don't know." Why? Didn't he have the world's best intelligence service? Doesn't he control 95 percent of the Shining Path leaders? Have the tens of millions of Shining Path dollars vanished?

Third, Fujimori, General Hermoza, and Dinandro [expansion unknown] have refused to admit that there is one single authority, either civil or military, who is involved with "Vaticano."

This refusal is totally unbelievable. If Fujimori, Hermoza, and Dinandro had admitted the links between "Vaticano" and some of the military, and if they had begun impartial investigations within the regular jurisdiction, they could have been given some credibility.

Fourth, the distracting maneuver with the artists, which was so obvious and unintelligent, makes it clear that there is an attempt to conceal something. Otherwise, what is the explanation for this plot that was personally initiated by the president and that has led nowhere?

The implications of the links between drug trafficking and the Armed Forces are dramatic. Corruption in other institutions can create many problems. If the police, customs offices, or the judicial branch are corroded by this disease, the problem is serious. But if the Armed Forces contract the disease, the situation is much worse, for several reasons.

One is that the military play a decisive role in the government, especially since 5 April 1992.

Another reason is that they enjoy a privileged status within society, like having their own jurisdiction for trials of military men, even in cases of common crimes. No institution can make a serious investigation into the military: neither congress, nor the police, nor the judicial branch.

Still another reason is the power of arms, which can be illegally used with much impunity, as was disclosed by General Rodolfo Robles, who referred to the "gang of henchmen" made up of military men.

If drug trafficking, or another form of corruption, reaches a deep level within the Armed Forces, affecting the command level, there could be political complications that could produce long authoritarian government terms and/or very costly damage to the country. This occurred in Bolivia with General Garcia Meza, in Paraguay with Stroessner, in Panama with Manuel Antonio Noriega, and it is currently happening in Haiti.

Yet, unlike Panama, Peru does not have a strategically important canal, and no one will come here to take away a corrupt military man. We will have to solve the problem ourselves. Honest Armed Forces officers have a great responsibility in this task.

### Minister Denies Army, Drug Trafficker Link

*PA1202042094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2241 GMT 9 Feb 94*

[Text] Lima, 9 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Today, Peruvian Interior Minister Juan Briones Davila rejected alleged ties between high-ranking Army officers and drug traffickers as claimed by a former DEA agent.

The high-ranking military officer expressed his concern that some press have given credence to statements "by any person accusing officers of having covered up activities of powerful drug trafficker Demetrio Chavez Penaherrera, also known as 'Vaticano.'"

"Every report is investigated, but we must treat this information with great care," the minister stated.

Chavez Penaherrera was mentioned as the connection between Peruvian drug traffickers and Colombia's Cali

cartel, which, after the death of Medellin cartel leader Pablo Escobar, controls 90 percent of drug shipments to the United States.

"Vaticano" was captured on 13 January in Cali and was deported the next day to Peru, where he is being prosecuted for drug trafficking offenses and ties to subversive groups.

Last Sunday on a Lima Channel 9 program, former DEA agent Augusto del Rio said "Vaticano" had the personal protection of Army troops deployed in the area of Alto Huallaga.

More than 60 percent of coca leaf produced in the Andean nation is grown in the region, 700 km northeast of Lima. It is also considered the main storage center for international drug trafficking.

Del Rio, who has infiltrated drug trafficking organizations since 1988, said that between February 1992 and March 1993 he tried to capture Chavez Penaherrera during the "Campanazo" [Toll of a Bell] operation, but he failed because he was protected by the military in the area.

Del Rio accused Generals Eduardo Bellido Mora and Alberto Arciniega Huby, former chiefs of the Huallaga Front political- military command in the jungle region of San Martin, of protecting "Vaticano" in exchange for large sums of money.

He said Bellido Mora foiled the "Campanazo" operation from which authorities hoped to seize some 3,000 kg of drug, but only managed to seize some 500 kg of cocaine basic paste.

Interior Minister Gen. Juan Briones Davila stressed that Bellido Mora is an "excellent officer" and as chief of the Huallaga Front fought "narcoterrorism" in that part of the Peruvian Amazon region in an efficient manner.

### Officers on Trial for Alleged Drug Trafficker Links

*PY1402113094 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 31 Jan 94 p A15*

[Text] The Contrapunta program on 30 January released a list of 55 Peruvian Army officers, including two brigadier generals, who currently are being tried on charges made by the Army General Inspector's Office for their alleged links to drug trafficking while on duty in different locations in upper Huallaga. It is not known if the investigations include links with drug trafficker Demetrio Chavez Penaherrera, "Vaticano."

The list released by the program is the following:

For Supporting Drug Traffickers: Brigadier General Julio Carbajal D'Angelo.

For Protecting Drug Traffickers: Brigadier General Jaime Rios Araico; Colonel Jose Marticorena Garcia; Lieutenant Colonel Jorge Arce Novoa; Lieutenant Edwin Garcia Darquere, retired; Subofficer 2d Class Rolando Ochoa Solis, retired; Captain Alfreo Vega Lazo; Lieutenant Juan Canchari Vidal; Sublieutenant Jorge Montoya Montenegro, retired; Lieutenant Victor Inga Pacheco; Lieutenant Colonel Mario Zarate Rotta; Major Alejandro Munante Salazar; Major Marco Landers Moscol, reserve status; Captain Carlos Hernandez Aparcana; Captain Alvaro Gonzales Davila; Major Omar Morales Ramirez; Lieutenant Juan Ramirez Flores; Captain Ricardo Falconi Alvarez; Captain Ignacio Trauco Rojas, reserve status; and Subofficer 1st Class Jorge Santiesteban Chicoma.

For Selling Quotas to Coca Growers: Subofficer 2d Class Efrain Cerna Alfaro, reserve status; Lieutenant Miguel Velezmoro Rojas; and Subofficer 3d Class Othon Tapia Navarro.

For Selling Quotas to Civilians who Entered the Sion Settlement (upper Huallaga): Captain Pedro Galvez Armas; Sub lieutenant Cesar Montenegro Zevallos; Technician 3d Class Jose Pinedo Lopez; Subofficer 2d Class Luis Cordova Zapata; Subofficer 2d Class Edgar Gill Minaya; Subofficer 2d Class Ives Tello Yung, reserve status; Subofficer 2d Class Johnny Zavaleta Jara; Subofficer Guillermo Guerra Pinedo; and Subofficer 2d Class Florentino Silva Chinguel.

For Receiving Bribes From Drug Traffickers: Lieutenant Jaime Reyes Cabrera; Lieutenant Edman Velarde Pacheco; Subofficer 3d Class Nelson Zarate Reyes; Subofficer 2d Class Pablo Camargo Huaman; Subofficer Raul Ceron Canchunari; Lieutenant Colonel Roberto Zarate Aguilar; Lieutenant Victor Auza Montalvo; Subofficer 2d Class Liviano Riquez Espiritu; and Captain Denny Enriquez Igreda.

For Selling Army Fuel to Drug Traffickers: Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Zapata Flores.

For Possesing and Selling Drugs: Lieutenant Carlos Bustos Aguero; SAubofficer 3d Class Jorge Calderon Herrera; Major Franz Bermejo Vizcarra; Subofficer 1st Class Felix Enciso Gutierrez; Subofficer 2d Class Clever Navarro Panduro; Captain Jorge Burgos Haro; Captain Eduardo Rivera Pacheco; Lieutenant A. Ascacibar Noblecilla; Lieutenant Nicolas Martinez Enriquez; and Captain Julio Cesar Bravo Sanchez.

For Selling Weapons to Drug Traffickers: Captain Carlos Alfaro Rodriguez and Sublieutenant Jose Leon Rodriguez.

For Building Airfields for Drug Traffickers: Captain Luis Marcillas Cespeces.

### Possible Reduction in Dincote Personnel Discussed

*PY1402133194 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 31 Jan 94 p A15*

[Text] An unofficial source has stated that the number of Counterterrorism Directorate (Dincote) police personnel might be reduced by 30 percent following a decision by

high-ranking Interior Ministry officials. It is believed that PNP [Peruvian National Police] General Luis Dominguez Soliz, the Dincote Commander, has been notified.

The promoters of this decision believe a cut in personnel will enhance the efficiency of police action. This opinion, however, is not shared by most Dincote officers who say that many times Dincote personnel cannot cope with the volume of work in their fight against terrorism.

Reliable sources state that this decision reflects a government decision to cut the Dincote budget and eliminate the 300-soles bonus given to its personnel.

It was leaked that the cut in Dincote's specialized personnel will be made in three stages. The first stage entails the dismissal of 200 chiefs, officers, and subalterns, in February.

The second and third stages foresee the lay-off of other 100 detectives, thus concluding the personnel reduction.

It has not been disclosed what will become of those who will be laid off.

Asked to comment on this, some officers noted that the decision caused disappointment among Dincote personnel and a split into two groups—those who favor and those who oppose the measure.

Officers pointed out that the latter group represent the majority who believe a reduction in personnel will virtually curtail the unit that has produced the most resounding successes of the PNP.

Our source stated that the current budget was drafted when PNP Lieutenant General Antonio Ketin Vidal Herrera was installed as the Dincote commander.

It was precisely at that time that Dincote personnel made the so-called "most spectacular capture of the century," when they arrested [Shining Path leader] Abimael Guzman Reinoso without firing a single shot on 12 September 1992.

Unless the Interior Minister reverses its decision, morale will be further undermined—especially that of subalterns whose wages are very low.

One Dincote officer remarked that last month Interior Ministry spokesmen announced a pay increase for subaltern personnel, but this has not yet happened.

## Poll Shows Poppy Could 'Easily' Replace Coca

*PY1002175194 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 3 Feb 94 p A11*

[Text] A worrisome fact that could be a decisive factor for the expansion of poppy plantations in the country is the coca growers' readiness to replace their traditional coca plantations with poppy plantations.

The Cedro [Information and Education Center To Prevent Drug Abuse] has conducted a poll among 200 peasants from various settlements of San Martin and Huanuco Departments. Only 12 percent of them said they would not replace coca with poppy.

Another 28 percent said that they would and the remaining 60 percent were undecided. They said that, depending on the circumstances, they might.

Considering that the price of coca is extremely low and that very few people are purchasing coca leaves, these "undecided" peasants could easily begin to plant poppies.

### A Matter of Survival

Our correspondent in Tarapoto talked to Jesus Rivera, leader of the Selva Maestra Agrarian Federation (Fasma). Rivera asserted that a large number of peasants were willing to plant poppy if they had someone to sell it to.

"It is a matter of survival. The peasants must survive and to be able to do so they are willing to plant poppy. They have no other option because they have no access to loans that would enable them to replace their coca plantations with subsistance crops or any other authorized crop," he said.

Rivera, who participated in the crop replacement program negotiations, said that a large numnber of peasants have threatened to begin sowing poppy seeds next month, unless the government grants them credit or some other sort of assistance, as the regional officials have promised.

## • Constitution's Chances for Long-Term Survival Viewed

*94SM0202C Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 30 Dec 93 p A2*

[Commentary by Manuel d'Ornellas: "How Long Will This Constitution Last?"]

[Text] The view is held by different sectors of the opposition that the Constitution promulgated yesterday will last only as long as the Fujimori administration. But that cannot be considered an infallible forecast.

In truth, it will all depend on who succeeds Fujimori in the government. Obviously, if a leader from the so-called "maximalist" opposition takes office in 1995, he will immediately endeavor to revoke the new Magna Carta, going back to the one of 1979. No chief of state, either "aprista" [of the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance]], or "acciopupulista" [of the AP [Popular Action Party]], or of the classic Marxist left, or of Mario Vargas Llosa's movement, will coexist with the 1993 Constitution. That is sure.

Things change, however, if the winner of the elections to be held 15 months from now comes from one of the less

radical organizations. What is more, if he is a "pepecista" [PPC [Popular Christian Party]] who is not enrolled in the ranks of self-exiled Alberto Borea, he will most probably accept the text of the Constitution approved by the referendum of 31 October last, even though he will try to introduce some amendments.

The same goes for possible independent candidates like Carlos Bolona or Ricardo Belmont, any member of Renovation and, of course, Fujimori's possible dauphins in the event the president decides not to seek reelection. Moreover, Javier Perez de Cuellar has accepted the validity of the Constitution promulgated yesterday, although with reservations on unicameralism and the death penalty—which we share—and on immediate reelection. In his case, of course, everything will depend on the terms of whatever agreement he may have reached with the conglomerate that catapults him into the presidency, in the hypothetical case that this were to happen....

So, the chances that the 1993 Constitution will outlast Fujimori's tenure are greater than that they will not. Those whose opposition to its survival is inflexible are the country's political minority. The rest accept its validity, in varying degrees, with reservations ranging from total intangibility of its text to the inclusion of substantial amendments in it.

The hypothesis that the new Fundamental Law will meet the same fate as Leguia's last Constitution, which was thrown out the window together with him, is, in the final analysis, rather remote. Particularly, if the new Constitution demonstrates, in terms of effective performance on the road between now and July 1995, that it is better than the preceding ones. Or that public opinion thinks that it is. The measuring stick will be the performance of the government, particularly in terms of the relations among its branches, and how well the unicameral Congress works.

If it passes this efficiency test, a return to the past and its 1979 Constitution will be difficult, not to say impossible.

## GATT: Investor Trust Recovered Through Reforms

*PA1002182094 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Feb 94*

[From the "Newspaper of the Airwaves" newscast]

[Text] Peru has recovered the trust of investors as a result of structural reforms, the opening of trade to foreign markets, and local competition, within the framework of a serious economic stabilization program initiated in 1990, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade stated today.

During an assessment of Peruvian trade policy, GATT highlighted the reduction of tariffs in general as a result of the government's goal of tariffs reaching 15 percent by January 1995; the elimination of price controls, subsidies, quantitative and exchange rate restrictions; and the policy of state intervention. The report states, however, that the private sector's reaction to the changes is limited due to the high levels of interest rates and taxes, sectoral competition, infrastructure deficiencies, overevaluation of the exchange rate, and terrorism.

## Banking Superintendency Communique on CLAE Closure

*PA1202183994 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Feb 94*

[Paid advertisement on communique issued by the Superintendency of Banks and Insurance on 10 February 1994; from the "Global TV News" newscast]

[Text] **Communique**

1. The Superintendency of Banks and Insurance, in complying with the general law on banking, financial, and insurance institutions and in accordance with its basic law, on 10 February has decided not to authorize the formalization of the Latin American Business Advisory Center, CLAE.

2. It is a known fact that the Superintendency of Banks and Insurance, considering the interests of CLAE investors, has shown a great deal of willingness and flexibility to facilitate the formalization of this enterprise. Nevertheless, this has not been possible due to serious irregularities, of which we will mention the main ones:

A. Despite frequent requests from this Superintendency, the CLAE Board of Directors has not clearly explained the destination of the funds received from the public. In the information delivered to this Superintendency as of 31 December 1993, CLAE directors declared that approximately 90 percent of CLAE investments were placed in German government bonds issued between 1924 and 1930 [as heard]. According to CLAE directors, the value of those bonds was reportedly $308 million. CLAE directors have not been able to prove the ownership or authenticity of those bonds, or the way or means used to purchase them, the actual value paid for them, and other conditions. All the missing information, according to German government authorities, are absolutely necessary to confirm the authenticity of those bonds. In addition, CLAE directors have not been able to prove the legality and value of the other assets. The announced investments in lobster and asparagus production are only reported with a value under $800,000, and no evidence is provided of their capacity to generate income.

B. CLAE directors have not presented irrefutable proof, as required by law, of the total amount of money they actually received from the public. On 29 April 1993, when they took control of CLAE, its directors reported that the amount received from the public was approximately $206 million. Afterward, on 31 December 1993, in a report sent to the Superintendency on diskettes, the amount reported was $454 million. In addition, that amount did not agree with the balance sheet presented

that same day by CLAE directors, who have not explained the differences or supplied the necessary information on the credit accounts in order to directly confirm the amounts with its creditors.

C. CLAE has not presented irrefutable evidence, as required by law, proving its real financial situation. Despite the facilities given by the Superintendency of Banks and Insurance, CLAE directors have not satisfactorily proven the real value of its assets and liabilities. Therefore, it has not been able to determine its exact financial situation. Based on the scant information supplied by its directors CLAE reportedly faces a loss surpassing $110 million, which technically and legally places the institution in an obvious bankruptcy situation.

3. In accordance with the law, the Superintendency of Banks and Insurance has issued instructions to its ad hoc attorney to report the situation to the judicial authorities in order to determine the responsibilities in the case. In the same manner, and also according to the law, it has asked the Supreme Court of Justice to order the closure of the Latin American Business Advisory Center, CLAE.

[Issued] Lima, 10 February 1994
[Signed] General Secretariat

### Superintendency Director on Closure

*PA1202194494 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Feb 94*

[From the "Global TV News" newscast]

[Text] In a news conference this afternoon, Luis Cortavarria Chequeli, director of the Superintendency of Banks and Insurance, justified the definitive intervention in the Latin American Business Advisory Center [CLAE]. As one of the reasons, he mentioned failure to meet the schedule of payments to CLAE depositors.

[Begin recording] [Cortavarria] Here we have a letter stating that the clients would begin to get their money on 7 February. By this date we had already started to prepare CLAE's closure. We reached the conclusion that if CLAE had not started to pay by this date, we would start the closure procedure. CLAE failed to begin returning the money on 8, 9, or 10 February. I believe the superintendent's office made the best possible effort to try to formalize CLAE. It is not that we intervened in CLAE even though CLAE reported on its operations. CLAE has been handing over documents that do not support the reported value of its assets. As we said since the beginning, CLAE's obligations to the public are not guaranteed. The proper procedure [words indistinct] because it is an organization not authorized by the superintendent's office.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] previously?

[Cortavarria] What do you mean previously?

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Cortavarria] Banking Law 637 of 1991 stipulates in a temporary article that banks that receive deposits from the public without authorization can formalize their status by providing information. A process then starts. The law provided the opportunity for CLAE to formalize its status, but it failed to stick by the law. [end recording]

## Venezuela

### Central Bank Grants 60 Billion Bolivares for Banco Latino

*PA1202135494 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 11 Feb 94*

[Report by Jose Marcano from "The News" newscast]

[Text] The Central Bank of Venezuela has granted 60 billion bolivares to Fogade [Deposit Guarantee Fund] in financial support for the operation required by Banco Latino. The sum is intended to enable account holders who have up to 1 million bolivares to withdraw their money from the bank in two weeks. This information was released by Fogade President Esperanza Martino, who said she received written notification from the president of the Central Bank of Venezuela early Friday morning.

The Central Bank of Venezuela's contribution is expected to enable Banco Latino account holders whose deposits range between 400,000 and 1 million bolivares to withdraw their money. Fogade would thus fulfill its obligation to 75 percent of its account holders.

[Begin Martino recording] The Central Bank of Venezuela has demanded that we act in coordination with the audit board, the Bank Superintendency, and the Central Bank of Venezuela so we may receive the advance payment. The goal is to provide the guarantees specified by law so we may reach a settlement with the audit board. We will get 60 billion bolivares to meet what we consider to be our basic obligation, guaranteeing accounts of up to 1 million bolivares. [end recording]

Esperanza Martino also said Fogade is studying a series of formulas to cooperate with all the account holders who have more than 1 million bolivares in Banco Latino. The possibility of issuing Fogade bonds is being analyzed, but Esperanza Martino said this does not represent an obligation for her organization, adding it will be done as a courtesy.

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